Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010

http://www.archive.org/details/worldsbestconund00laws

THE WORLD'S BEST CONUNDRUMS AND RIDDLES OF ALL AGES

J. GILCHRIST LAWSON

THE WORLD'S BEST CONUNDRUMS AND RIDDLES OF ALL AGES

BY

J. GILCHRIST LAWSON

Author of "The World's Best Humorous Anecdotes," "The World's Best Epigrams," etc.

HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK AND LONDON

COPYRIGHT, 1924, BY HARPER & BROTHERS

THE WORLD'S BEST CONUNDRUMS
AND RIDDLES OF ALL AGES
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
M-O

INTRODUCTION

In preparing this book it has been the purpose of the author and publisher to provide a collection of all the world's best riddles and conundrums. They believe that they have succeeded in presenting a far more comprehensive and much better classified collection of riddles and conundrums than any heretofore published. All of the standard, popular and important riddles are contained in this volume. The author and publisher acknowledge their indebtedness to the many splendid collections of riddles, conundrums, enigmas and charades which have preceded this one.

The thorough classification of the riddles in this book will enable the reader to instantly select the best on any subject, and to ask conundrums appropriate to any occasion. It will also enable any one to turn quickly to the answer to any popular riddle by looking for the riddle under the subject to which it properly belongs. Persons especially interested in the study of animals, geography, history, literature, biography, mythology, the Bible, or any other great theme, will find a large collection of riddles arranged under each of those headings. The classification of the riddles under subjects will appeal to public speakers and to writers wishing to quote appropriate riddles on any subject; also to those wishing to make a literary study of riddles on any particular subject. If it should seem monotonous to ask a number of riddles on one subject, the greatest variety may be secured by turning rapidly from one subject to another.

A number of the riddles in this book are new and some original; while others, like the famous "riddle of the Sphinx" or Samson's riddle from the Bible, are thousands of years or centuries old. Many date back to the early years of English history more than a thousand years ago, while many others are translated from foreign languages. A few, which could not well be translated, are given in the leading languages of Europe.

From the days of Egyptian and Greek mythology to the present time riddles have been widely used as a means of amusement and to sharpen the wits of the young and to test the wits of both old and young. Perhaps the oldest riddle known is that of the Sphinx of Greek mythology. This fabled monster with a human head and the body of a beast sat on a high rock by the roadside near Thebes and propounded the following riddle to passers-by: "What is it that has only one voice and goes first on four feet, then on two, and lastly on three?" All who could not solve the riddle were strangled by the monster and thrown from the rock. Finally, Œdipus, son of the

king of Thebes, answered the riddle, saying that it referred to man, who crawls as an infant, then walks on two feet and in old age uses a staff. The Sphinx was so chagrined at the solution of her riddle that she cast herself from the high rock and perished. In ancient Greek mythology, the Oracles frequently spoke in riddles, most of them being poetry, like the riddle of Samson in the Bible. In old Norse mythology, Odin entered into a riddle contest with the giant Vafthrudinir, in which the giant forfeited his life when he failed to answer a riddle. In the mythology of other countries even life itself was sometimes wagered that a riddle could not be solved. In the "Alvissmal" the prize of the riddle contest was the daughter of Thor. In the English ballad of the Elfin Knight, a maid saves herself from an evil spirit by guessing his riddles. In Russian folk-tale the Princess agrees to marry "Boots" if she cannot solve his riddle. He said, "As I came to you I saw on the way what was bad, and I struck the bad with a bad thing, and of what was bad the bad died." She could not guess that he had killed a snake with his lance; she gave up the riddle and had to marry him.

Not only in mythology and folk-lore of many nations are there numerous examples of riddles and riddle contests, but there are many instances of riddles and riddle guessing in real history. Among the Hebrews we have the example of Samson's riddle in the Scriptures; and Josephus, the ancient Jewish historian, relates how Solomon and Hiram, king of Tyre, once had a riddle contest in which Solomon won a large sum of money from Hiram, but afterwards lost it all to Hiram's subject, Abdemon. The Queen of Sheba came to pose the wise king Solomon with riddles, or so runs the Vulgate. Plutarch claims that Homer, the great poet of ancient Greece, died of grief because he could not solve a certain riddle about two boys who went hunting. Riddles became common in Greece about the time of the "Seven Sages," and were even used by the greater poets. Cœlius Firmianus Symposius wrote a hundred riddles in poetry. Virgil, the Latin poet, tells about the shepherds asking riddles. Riddles are found in the Koran, or Mohammedan Bible. It is claimed that a war of riddles took place between Lycerus, king of Babylon, and Nectanebo, king of Egypt, and was won by Lycerus through the help of Æsop, the famous writer of fables, then residing at his court. Ancient kings sent enigmas to each other, and ambassadors sometimes delivered their messages in the form of riddles. In the early baronial halls and in the monasteries of England, riddles were used for amusement, and as a serious intellectual exercise they were common in the Middle Ages. During the serious times of the Reformation riddle-guessing was checked, but became very common in France, Germany and England in the 17th Century, when poetical riddles and charades were invented by the great writers and poets.

Many collections of riddles have been made. Many French, English and German riddle books exist in manuscript form, made before the days of printing. Others were printed as early as the 16th Cen-

tury. While many of these riddles are coarse jests, others represent the simple religious beliefs of the times. Thus, *"Demand:* What bore the best burden that ever was borne? *Response:* The ass that carried our Lady when she fled with our Lord into Egypt." A number of interesting old English poetical riddles are given in the *Exeter Book,* written about 1000 A.D. Some of these are as old as the 8th Century after Christ, and some of them are evidently translated from old Latin riddles. Ædhelm, bishop of Sherborne (died 709), and Tatwine, archbishop of Canterbury (731-734), wrote Latin riddles. Collections of riddles exist in most of the leading languages, and even in Arabic and Persian. Most of the best collections have been published in the last few decades.

Popular riddles are widely distributed, like popular legends and fairy tales. The Woloffs of Africa ask, "What flies forever and rests never?" referring to the wind. The African Basutos put this riddle, "What is wingless and legless, yet flies fast and cannot be imprisoned?" describing the human voice. The German riddle concerning the wind is, "What can go in the face of the sun yet leave no shadow?" To-day, with us, riddles are usually mere jests; but the peasants of Ireland, Germany and Russia, and the Gypsies, Zulus and Samoans often regard them more seriously. In the Government of Pskov, in Russia, on the occasion of a marriage, the bridegroom and his friends are not allowed to enter the bride's cottage until they have answered all the riddles her friends put to them. In one of the villages in the Jaroslav Government a bargain is concluded between the groomsman and the "seller of the bride"—riddles answered by gestures instead of words taking the place of coin.

Riddles are akin to parables or proverbs. They are the oldest extant form of humor. They are collected and studied as folk-lore fossils. The pun, conundrum, enigma, charade and rebus are different forms of riddles. The punning variety of riddles, known as conundrums, are now very common. This form of riddle, though sometimes indulged in by the early Greeks and Romans, is of comparatively modern growth. Riddles were frequently used by the ancients to disguise truths which it was not deemed advisable that every one should know, or which it was not considered safe to state too plainly. After inventing riddles, men began guessing riddles as a game, and sometimes sides were chosen, each side betting on its champion. Wagers were frequently made on the guessing of riddles, as Samson wagered the Philistines that they could not solve his riddle.

The author and publisher believe that this collection of conundrums and riddles will supply a much needed volume for the addition of a very desirable element to programs for all sorts of social occasions, as well as to enliven conversation in home gatherings by the fireside and at the dinner table.

J. G. L.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ABSENCE	29
ACCIDENTS	29
ACROBATS	29
ACTIONS	29
ACTORS	30
ACTRESSES	30
ADVICE	31
AFFECTION	31
AGE	31
AIR	32
AIR CASTLES	32
AIRSHIPS	32
ALPHABET	33
AMBITION	39
AMERICA	39
ANGER	40
ANIMALS	40
ANTS	42
ANYTHING	43
APOTHECARIES	43
APPLES	43
ARCHITECTS	43
ARGUMENTS	43
ARMIES	43
ARTISTS	44
AUCTIONS	45
AUGERS	45
AUTHORS	45
AUTOMOBILES	46
AVARICE	46
BABIES	46

PAGE

BACHELORS 48
BAKERS 48
BALDNESS 49
BALLOONS 50
BANKRUPTCY 50
BANKS 50
BARBERS 51
BARRELS 51
BASE-BALL 51
BATHING 52
BATS 52
BEARDS 52
BEAUTY 52
BEDS 52
BEES 53
BEGGARS 54
BELLS 55
BIBLE 55
BICYCLES 66
BIOGRAPHY 67
BIRDS 69
BLACKSMITHS 71
BLINDNESS 71
BLONDES 72
BLOWS 72
BLUSHING 72
BOARDERS 72
BOARDS OF TRADE 72
BOASTING 73
BOATS 73
BOILS 73
BONES 73
BOOKKEEPERS 74
BOOKS 74
BORES 75
BORROWING 75
BOTTLES 75
BOXES 75

PAGE

BOXING 75
BOYS 76
BRAINS 78
BRAVERY 78
BREAD 78
BREADTH 78
BRIDGES 78
BRUNETTES 79
BUGS 79
BUILDINGS 79
BURGLARS 79
BUSSES 79
BUTCHERS 79
BUTTER 80
BUTTER-FLIES 80
BUTTONS 80

CABLES 80
CABS 80
CANDLES 81
CANDY 81
CANES 82
CANNIBALS 82
CANNON 82
CARDS 82
CARPENTERS 83
CARPETS 83
CARS 84
CASHIERS 84
CATERPILLARS 84
CATS 84
CATTLE 86
CAUTION 87
CEMETERIES 87
CHAIRS 87
CHARADES 87
CHARITY 93
CHEATING 93

PAGE

CHEESE 94
CHEMISTS 94
CHESS 94
CHICKENS 94
CHILDREN 97
CHIMNEYS 97
CHINAMEN 98
CHOIRS 98
CHRONOMETERS 98
CHURCHES 98
CITIES 99
CLIMBING 99
CLOCKS 99
CLOTHES 101
CLOUDS 103
COACHMEN 103
COALS 103
COFFEE 104
COFFINS 104
COLD CREAM 104
COLDS 104
COLLEGES 105
COLORS 105
COMBS 105
COMMITTEES 105
COMPANIES 105
CONCEIT 106
CONFUSION 106
CONGRESS 106
CONTEMPT 106
CONVENTS 106
COOKING 106
COQUETTES 108
CORN 108
CORNS 108
CORSETS 108
COUNTERFEITING 109
COURTSHIP 109

PAGE

COWARDS 110
CRANKS 110
CREDULITY 110
CRIMINALS 110
CROWDS 110
CROWS 110
CRYING 110
CUNNING 111
CURTAINS 111

DANCING 111
DANGER 112
DAYS 112
DEAFNESS 112
DEATH 112
DEBTS 113
DEJECTION 114
DENTISTS 114
DIRT 115
DISCONTENT 115
DISCOURSES 115
DISEASES 115
DITCHES 116
DIVORCE 116
DOCTORS 116
DOGMAS 117
DOGS 117
DOMESTIC TROUBLES 119
DONKEYS 121
DOORBELLS 121
DOORS 121
DRINKING 122
DROWNING 123
DUCKS 123
DUDES 124
DUELS 125
DUMBNESS 125
DUMB-WAITERS 125

PAGE

DUST 125
DUTY 125

EARS 125
EARTH 125
EATING 125
EAVES-DROPPERS 131
ECHOES 131
ECLIPSES 132
EDITORS 132
EGGS 132
EGOTISM 133
ELEVATORS 133
EMPLOYERS 133
ENERGY 133
ENGINES 133
ENGLISH 134
ENGRAVERS 137
ENVELOPES 137
ENVY 137
EPIGRAMS 138
EQUALITY 138
ETERNITY 138
EYES 138

FACTS 139
FAINTING 139
FALLING 139
FALSE LOGIC 140
FARMERS 140
FASHIONS 141
FAT PEOPLE 142
FAULT-FINDING 142
FEAR 142
FEATURES 143
FEET 143
FENCES 143
FIELDS 144

PAGE

FIGURES 144
FIRE 144
FIRE-FLIES 145
FIREWORKS 145
FISH 145
FLATTERY 147
FLEAS 147
FLIES 148
FLIRTING 148
FLOWERS 149
FOG 149
FOLLY 150
FOOD 150
FOOLS 150
FOREIGNERS 150
FORESIGHT 150
FORGERY 150
FORKS 150
FORMS 151
FOUNTAINS 151
FOURTH OF JULY 151
FRENCH 151
FRIENDS 153
FROGS 153
FROST 154
FRUITS 154
FURS 155

GAMBLING 155
GAMES 156
GARDENS 156
GARTERS 157
GATES 157
GENEROSITY 157
GEOGRAPHY 157
GEOLOGY 164
GEOMETRY 164
GERMAN 164

PAGE

GIRLS 164
GIVING 167
GLASS 167
GLOVES 167
GOATS 167
GOOD BREEDING 168
GOOD RESOLUTIONS 168
GOVERNESSES 168
GRAMMAR 168
GRASS 169
GRASS WIDOWS 170
GRAVITY 170
GROCERS 170
GUNS 170
GYMNASTICS 171

HAIR 171
HANDCUFFS 171
HANDKERCHIEFS 172
HANDS 172
HANGING 172
HAPPINESS 173
HARDSHIPS 173
HASTE 173
HATS 173
HEADS 174
HEALTH 174
HEAT 174
HEAVEN 174
HILLS 175
HISTORY 175
HOLES 180
HONEYMOONS 180
HOPE 180
HORSES 180
HOTELS 182
HOUSES 183
HUNTING 183

PAGE

HUSBANDS 183

ICE 184
ICE CREAM 184
IDEAS 184
IDOLS 185
IGNORANCE 185
IMBECILITY 185
INDIANS 185
INK 185
IRISH 185
IRON 187

JEWELERS 187
JEWS 187
JOKES 187
JUDGES 188
JUMPING 188
JURIES 188

KEEPSAKES 188
KEYS 188
KISSING 188
KITES 190
KNAPSACKS 190
KNAVES 190
KNOTS 191

LADDERS 191
LADIES 191
LAMP-POSTS 193
LAMPS 193
LAND 193
LATIN 193
LAUGHING 193
LAW 193
LAWSUITS 194
LAWYERS 194

PAGE

LAZINESS 196
LECTURES 197
LEGS 197
LEISURE 197
LETTERS 197
LIBRARIES 197
LIFE 197
LIGHTNING 198
LIGHTS 198
LIPS 198
LISPING 199
LITERARY 199
LOADS 204
LOAFERS 204
LOCKS 204
LOST ARTICLES 204
LOVE 204
LOVERS 205
LUCK 206
LUNACY 207
LYING 207

MAGIC 207
MANNERS 208
MARRIAGE 208
MATHEMATICS 210
MEASURES 216
MEDICINES 216
MEMORY 217
MEN 217
MERIT 219
MESSENGERS 219
MICE 219
MILK 220
MIND 220
MINING 220
MIRRORS 220
MISERS 221

PAGE

MISFORTUNE 221
MISSIONARIES 222
MISTAKES 222
MODESTY 222
MONEY 222
MOON 224
MORNING 225
MORTGAGES 225
MOSQUITOES 225
MOTHERS 225
MOTHERS-IN-LAW 226
MOUNTAINS 226
MOUSTACHES 226
MUD 226
MUGS 226
MUMMIES 226
MURDER 227
MUSIC 227
MYSTERIES 231
MYTHOLOGY 231

NAILS 232
NAMES 232
NATURE 233
NAVY 233
NECESSITY 233
NEEDLES 233
NEGROES 234
NEWSPAPERS 234
NIGHT 235
NOBILITY 235
NOISES 236
NORTH POLE 236
NOSES 236
NOTES 237
NOTHING 237

OCEANS 238

PAGE

OFFENSE 238
OFFICIOUSNESS 238
OLD MAIDS 238
ORATORS 239
ORPHANS 239

PAIN 239
PAINT 240
PAPER 240
PARENTS 240
PAWNBROKERS 240
PENCILS 240
PENS 241
PEOPLE 241
PERFUME 241
PERJURY 241
PERSEVERANCE 241
PHOTOGRAPHS 242
PHYSIOGNOMY 242
PIANOS 242
PICTURES 242
PIES 242
PIGS 243
PILLOWS 244
PINCHING 244
PINS 244
PITCHERS 244
PITY 244
PLAGIARISM 244
PLANTS 245
PLOWING 245
POCKETS 245
POETS 245
POLICE 246
POLITICS 247
PORTERS 247
PORTRAITS 247
POSITIVENESS 248

PAGE

POSTAGE 248
POSTMEN 248
POSTS 248
POULTRY 249
POVERTY 249
POWDER 249
PRAIRIES 249
PREACHERS 249
PRECIOUS STONES 251
PRESIDENTS 251
PRICES 252
PRIDE 252
PRINTERS 252
PRISONS 252
PROMISES 253
PROMPTNESS 253
PRONUNCIATION 253
PROPOSING 253
PROSPERITY 254
PRUDENCE 254
PRUDERY 254
PUMPS 254
PUNCTUATION 254
PUNS 254
PURSES 255

QUARRELLING 255
QUESTIONS 256

RACING 256
RADIOS 256
RAILROADS 256
RAIN 257
REAL ESTATE 258
RECEPTIONS 258
RECORDS 258
RELATIVES 258
RELIGION 260

PAGE

REMARKS 260
RENT 260
RESOLUTIONS 261
RIDDLES 261
RIDING 262
RINGS 263
RIVERS 263
ROADS 263
ROOFS 263
ROOMS 264
ROPES 264
ROYALTY 264
RUGS 265
RULERS 265

SAILORS 265
SANTA CLAUS 266
SARCASM 266
SATISFACTION 266
SCALES 267
SCANDAL 267
SCHOOLS 267
SCISSORS 268
SCOTCH 268
SCULPTURE 269
SEAS 269
SEASICKNESS 269
SEASONS 270
SECRETS 270
SEEDS 271
SEEING 271
SELF 271
SELF-DEFENSE 271
SENSE 271
SERMONS 271
SERVANTS 272
SEWING 272
SHADOWS 272

PAGE

SHAVING 273
SHEEP 273
SHIPS 273
SHIVERING 275
SHOES 275
SHOOTING 277
SHOPS 277
SHORTHAND 278
SHORT PEOPLE 278
SICKNESS 278
SIGHING 279
SIGNS 279
SILENCE 279
SILKWORMS 279
SILVERWARE 279
SINGING 279
SIZE 279
SKATING 280
SLANDER 280
SLEEPING 281
SMALLNESS 281
SMILES 281
SMOKING 281
SNAKES 282
SNEEZING 282
SNORING 282
SNOW 282
SNUFF 282
SOAP 282
SOCIABILITY 282
SOCIETY 283
SOFAS 283
SOLDIERS 283
SOUL 286
SOUP 286
SPEAKING 286
SPECTACLES 286
SPECULATION 286

PAGE

SPELLING 286
SPENDTHRIFTS 293
SPIDERS 293
SPLINTERS 294
SPONGES 294
SPOONING 294
SPRING 294
SQUIRRELS 295
STAIRS 295
STARING 295
STARS 295
STEALING 296
STOCKINGS 297
STOCKS 297
STONES 297
STORES 298
STORIES 298
STORMS 298
STREET CARS 298
STUDENTS 298
STUPIDITY 299
SUCCESS 299
SUGAR 299
SUN 299
SUNDAY 300
SURGEONS 301
SUSPENDERS 301
SWEARING 301
SWEEPING 301
SWIMMING 302
SYMPATHY 302

TABLES 302
TAILORS 302
TALKING 303
TALL PEOPLE 303
TEA 304
TEETH 304

PAGE

TELEGRAPH 305
TEMPER 305
TENEMENTS 305
THANKS 306
THEATRES 306
THINKING 307
THUNDER 307
TICKLING 307
TIME 307
TIREDNESS 309
TOASTS 309
TOBACCO 309
TONGUE 309
TRADES 310
TRAINS 312
TRAMPS 313
TRAPS 313
TRAVEL 313
TREADMILLS 313
TREASON 313
TREES 313
TROUBLES 315
TRUNKS 315
TRUTH 315
TYPEWRITERS 316

UMBRELLAS 316

VACCINATION 317
VARIETY 317
VEGETABLES 317
VINEGAR 318
VINES 318
VIOLINS 318
VOICE 319
VOWELS 319

WAGONS 319

PAGE

WAITERS 320
WALKING 320
WALKING-STICKS 320
WALL PAPER 320
WALLS 320
WAR 321
WASHING 322
WATCHES 323
WATER 324
WATERMELONS 324
WAVES 324
WEATHER 325
WEDDINGS 325
WEIGHT 326
WHEELBARROWS 327
WHEELS 327
WHISPERING 327
WHISTLING 327
WIDOWERS 327
WIDOWS 328
WIGS 328
WILLS 329
WIND 329
WINDOWS 329
WIT 329
WIVES 330
WOMEN 330
WORK 334
WORLD 334
WRITING 335

YEARS 335
YOUNG LADIES 335
YOUNG MEN 338

THE WORLD'S BEST CONUNDRUMS
AND RIDDLES OF ALL AGES

ABSENCE

Why is absence like a pair of bellows?
Because it strengthens a strong flame and extinguishes a weak one.

What sense pleases you most in an unpleasant acquaintance?
Absence.

ACCIDENTS

What is better than presence of mind in a railway accident?
Absence of body.

Why is it better to lose an arm than a leg?
Because when you lose a leg you lose something to boot.

ACROBATS

Why has the acrobat such a wonderful digestion?
Because he lives on ropes and poles, and thrives.

If the acrobat fell off his trapeze, what would he fall against?
Against his inclination.

Who are the acrobats in every household?
The pitcher and the tumbler.

ACTIONS

Why are the actions of men like great rivers?
Because we see the course that they take, but not the source whence they spring.

ACTORS

Why is a good actor like a good architect?
Because they both "draw" good houses.

Why is an actor better dead than living?
When alive he scarce a living can get, when he's dead he fills both box and pit.

Why is a dressmaker braver than an actor?
Because she is not afraid of the hook.

Why is a pelted actor like a pardoned criminal?
Because he's glad to get off.

Why is a retired actor like an extortioner?
Because he is an ex-actor.

Why does the rope dancer invariably have to repeat his performances?
Because they are always on cord (encored).

Why did Blondin on the high rope stand to his audience in the sense of one who is outstripping his fellows?
Because he was stepping over their heads.

ACTRESSES

Why is an actress like an angel?
Because we seldom see one that is not painted.

Why is a woman who tries to drive a balky horse like a successful actress?
Because she's the leading lady.

Why are actresses like pipes?
They are mere-shams.

How can an actress appear in two pieces on the same evening?
Because she's taking a part (taken apart).

What is the difference between a ballet-dancer and a duck?
One goes quick on her beautiful legs; the other goes quack on her beautiful eggs.

Why are ballet-women so wicked?
Because they are never content until they execute their pas.

ADVICE

What is it we all require, we all give, we occasionally ask for, but very seldom take?
Advice.

When any one asks your advice what should you do?
First find out what kind of advice he wants, then give it to him.

What kind of vice is that which people dislike if they are ever so bad?
Ad-vice.

What does everybody give and few take?
Advice.

AFFECTION

Why is a comprehensive action an affectionate one?
Because it embraces everything.

What article that we wear is most affectionate?
A porous plaster, because it becomes very much attached to us.

AGE

Why is a dilapidated house like old age?
Because its gate is feeble and its locks are few.

Why is an old man easily robbed?
His gait is broken and his locks are few (locks of hair).

What is everything doing at the same time?
Growing older.

Why is a nail fast in the wall like an old man?
Because it is in firm.

Where do you go on your 12th birthday?
Into your 13th year.

Why is an old man like a window?
He is full of pains (panes).

What three letters make a man of a boy?
A. G. E.

Why are very old people necessarily prolix and tedious?
Because they die late (dilate).

AIR

Why does the air seem fresher in winter than it does in summer?
Because it's kept on ice most of the time.

AIR CASTLES

What are the most wonderful buildings ever built?
Air castles.

In what sense are idle people often expert carpenters?
In building air castles.

What beautiful buildings may be built without expense?
Air castles.

Why is it all right to build air castles?
Because if we never build castles in the air,
We shall never build them anywhere.

What wonderful buildings resemble mirage?
Air castles.

What magnificent buildings are there on which no one is willing to accept a mortgage?
Air castles.

What is the right kind of timber for castles in the air?
A sunbeam.

What other edifice does a man sometimes carry about with him besides a sty in his eye?
A castle in the (h)air!

AIRSHIPS

Why are airship inventors like musicians?
Because they bend all their energies to the conquest of the air.

Why is an airship bequeathed you by your father like the portrait of an ancestor?
Because it is a family heirloom.

Why is the aëronaut whose airship plows into the earth like a successful speculator?
Because he has taken a flier in real estate.

Why does an aëronaut dislike to speak about his trips?
It is generally a soar point with him.

What is the highest pleasure you can think about?
Riding in an aeroplane.

In what way do men now compete with the birds?
In flying through the air.

What modern amusement makes you feel like a bird?
Riding in an aeroplane.

Why is the fresh young upstart like an aërial postman?
Because he's up and coming.

What is the difference between a beached vessel and a wrecked aeroplane?
One grounds on the land and the other lands on the ground.

ALPHABET

What is it that occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and not once in a thousand years?
The letter M.

Why is a selfish person like the letter "p"?
Because he is the first in pity and the last in help.

What letter will set one of the heavenly bodies in motion?
T, because it will make a star start.

What is that which is invisible yet never out of sight?
The letter "s."

When can the alphabet be shortened?
When U and I are one.

How can you remove A from the alphabet?
B-head it.

Why is it right for B to come before C?
Because we must B before we can C.

Which is the merriest letter in the alphabet?
U, because it is always in fun.

How would you express in two letters that you were twice the bulk of your companions?
I W.

What word of only three syllables combines in it twenty-six letters?
Alphabet.

Why is the letter F like a cow's tail?
Because it is the end of beef.

Why is E the most unfortunate of letters?
Because it is never in cash, always in debt, and never out of danger.

Why are the fourteenth and fifteenth letters of the alphabet of more importance than the others?
Because we cannot get on (o-n) well without them.

If the alphabet were all invited out to supper, in what order would they come?
They would all get there down to S, and the rest would come after T.

If the alphabet were going out to a party, when would the last six letters start?
After T.

What are the hottest letters in the alphabet?
K N (cayenne).

Why is the letter R indispensable to friendship?
Because without it your friends would be fiends.

Speak only two letters and thus name the destiny of all earthly things.
D K.

Why is the letter R most important to young people?
Because without it we would have neither Christmas nor a New Year.

Why is A like a honeysuckle?
Because a B follows it.

Why should children mind their P's and Q's?
To discover the difference between being polite and quiet, and being pert and quarrelsome.

Why is L like giving a sweetheart away?
Because it makes over a lover.

Which is the longest letter in the alphabet?
An l (ell).

Why is the letter B like fire?
Because it makes oil boil.

Why is the letter E like death?
Because it is the end of life.

What is the beginning of every end, and the end of every place?
The letter E.

Why is the letter S like a sewing-machine?
Because it makes needles needless.

Why is S like a smart repartee?
Because it begins and ends in sauciness.

Why is D like a squalling child?
Because it makes ma mad.

What is that which is
The beginning of eternity,
The end of time and space,
The beginning of every end,
The end of every race?
The letter E.

Why should a housekeeper never put the letter M into her refrigerator?
Because it will change ice into mice.

When will there be but twenty-five letters in the alphabet?
When U and I are one.

Two letters often tempt mankind,
And those who yield will surely find
Two others ready to enforce
The punishment that comes of course.
X-S and D-K (excess and decay).

If your wife were to fall overboard, what letter in the alphabet would suit your wishes?
Letter "B."

Why is it that you and I must never dine together?
Because U can never come until after I.

What must all the letters of the alphabet be in order to possess infinite sagacity?
Wise (Y's).

What is always at the head of fashion, yet always out of date?
The letter F.

What Queen Mary had before, poor thing! what King William had behind, poor thing! what Queen Anne never had at all, poor thing?
The letter M.

I partake alike in your joys, and your sorrows, and your home would not be home without me.
Letter O.

Why is the letter F like death?
Because it makes all fall.

Why is the letter A like twelve o'clock?
Because it comes in the middle of day.

If a stupid fellow was going to take an examination, why should he study the letter P?
Because P makes "ass" "pass."

What four letters should frighten a thief?
O I C U (Oh! I see you).

When is a man like the letter B?
When he is in bed.

What letter is the pleasantest to a deaf woman?
A, because it makes her hear.

Why is the letter D like a sailor?
It follows the C (sea).

What letter is always invisible, yet never out of sight?
The letter I.

Why is the letter G like the sun?
Because it is the center of light.

Why is the letter S like dinner?
It comes before T (tea).

Why is the letter Y like a young spendthrift?
Because it makes pa pay.

Why is the letter S like thunder?
It makes our cream sour cream.

Which are the two most disagreeable letters if you get too much of them?
K N (cayenne).

How shall the following be read?

Yy u r yy u b
I c u r yy 4 me.

Answer.—Too wise you are,
Too wise you be;
I see you are
Too wise for me.

Why is the letter D like a wedding ring?
Because "we" cannot be "wed" without it.

Luke had it first, Paul had it last; boys never have it; girls have it but once; Miss Sullivan had it twice in the same place, but when she married Pat Murphy she never had it again?
The letter L.

Why is the letter W like scandal?
Because it makes ill will.

Why is the letter W like a maid of honor?
Because it is always in waiting.

If all the letters in the alphabet were on a mountain, what letter would leave first?
D would begin the descent.

What one letter in the alphabet will spell the word potato?
The letter O, put them down one at a time until you have put eight o's.

Why is the letter N like a pig?
Because it makes a sty nasty.

Why is quizzing like the letter D on horseback?
It is deriding (D riding).

Why is the letter K like a pig's tail?
Because it's at the end of pork!

Why is the letter T like an amphibious animal?
Because it lives both in earth and water.

Why is the letter N like a buck's tail?
Because it's the end of venison.

Which are the most sensible letters?
The wise (Y's).

Which are the most extensive letters?
The seas (C's).

Which letters are greatest bores?
The Tease (T's).

Which letters are most fond of comfort?
The ease (E's).

Which letters are the hardest workers?
The bees (B's).

Which changes the lower regions into the flower regions?
The letter F.

Why should all sober people go to rest directly after tea?
Because when T is gone night is nigh.

Which are the poorest letters?
The Owes (O's).

Why is the letter E like London?
Because it is the capital of England.

If a dirty sick man be ordered to wash in order to get well, why is it like four letters of the alphabet?
Because it's soapy cure (it's o-p-q-r).

What is the difference between here and there?
The letter T.

Why is a glass-blower the most likely person to set the alphabet off at a gallop?
Because he can make a D-canter.

Why is the letter R a profitable letter?
Because it makes rice of ice.

What was the first bet ever made?
The alphabet.

What makes a road broad?
The letter B.

What changes a pear into a pearl?
The letter L.

AMBITION

Why is ambition like a weather cock?
Because it's a vain thing to a-spire.

AMERICA

Why is the emblem of the United States more enduring than that of France, England, Ireland, or Scotland?
The "Lily" may fade and its leaves decay,
The "Rose" from its stem may sever,
The "Shamrock" and "Thistle" may pass away,
But the "Stars" will shine forever.

Why is the American eagle like the enterprising business man?
Because he is found wherever there is a dollar.

Why should the people of the United States be very jolly?
Because it was named after a merry cuss (Americus).

What country is like a happy dog?
America (A-merry-cur).

Why is this continent like milk?
Because it's ours (it sours).

Why is the history of our country like playing a lively tune on the piano?
Because it is touching "a merry key" (America).

Why does Uncle Sam wear red-white-and-blue suspenders?
To hold up his pants.

ANGER

When is a man where he is not?
When he is beside himself.

When is a very angry man like a clock fifty-nine minutes past twelve?
When he is just going to strike one.

What way of showing wrath has a tea kettle?
It sings sweetest when it is hottest.

Why is anger like a potato?
Because it always shoots from the eye.

When is a man duplicated?
When he's beside himself.

How do angry women prove themselves strong-nerved?
By exhibiting their "presents of mind" and "giving you a bit of it."

ANIMALS

Why is a camel a most irascible animal?
Because he always has his back up.

What is worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?
A centipede with chilblains.

What animal would you be on a cool day?
A little otter.

A duck, a frog, and a skunk went to a circus and had to have a dollar to get in; which got in, and which didn't?
The duck got in because she had a bill; the frog got in on his green-back; but the poor old skunk couldn't get in because he only had a cent (scent), and it was a bad one.
Or:
The duck gobbled up the frog, and then "ducked" in, and the skunk got in, as his one cent (scent) was equal to a hundred.

Which animal carries the most, and which the least luggage?
The elephant carries the most, because he is never without his

trunk, and the fox and cock the least, because they only have one brush and comb between them.

Why is an elephant an unwelcome caller?
Because he always brings his trunk with him.

Why is an alligator the most deceitful of animals?
Because he shows an open countenance when taking you in.

Would you rather an elephant killed you, or a gorilla?
Rather the elephant killed the gorilla.

Which would you rather—a lion eat you or a tiger?
I'd rather the lion eat the tiger.

If a man met a crying pig, what animal would he call him?
Pork you pine.

With what two animals do you always go to bed?
Two calves.

What animals are in the clouds?
Rain, dear, (reindeer).

Why is an elephant like a wheelbarrow?
Because he can't climb up a tree.

Add half a score to nothing, and what animal does it make?
O X (ox).

What is that which the fox has and the hare most wants?
A brush.

Which animal is the heaviest in all creation?
A le(a)d horse.

What wild animals may be safely shut up in the same enclosure?
Sixteen ounces in one pound.

What would a bear want if he should get into a dry-goods store?
Muslin (muzzling).

Which is the most generous animal in the world?
A skunk, because they give every one passing a s-cent.

What is the best way to hide a bear; it doesn't matter how big he is—the bigger the better?
Skin him.

Why is a mahout, when trampled on by his elephant, like a lobster?
Because he's a crush'd Asian (Crustacean).

When is a man like a snake?
When he is rattled.

What animals grow on grape vines?
Gray apes (Grapes).

Which animal carries the most baggage when he travels?
The elephant, because he carries his trunk with him.

Why is an elephant's head different from every other head?
Because if you cut his head off his body you do not take it from the trunk.

When does a leopard change his spots?
When he moves from one spot to another.

What animals always have gaiters on?
Alligators.

What small animal is turned into a large one by being beheaded?
Fox—ox.

Why should turtles be pitied?
Because theirs is a hard case.

What is the difference between a man struck with amazement and a leopard's tail?
One is rooted to the spot and the other is spotted to the root.

What animal does a boy represent when throwing wood onto a pile?
A wood-chuck.

Which has the greatest amount of animal heat, the beaver or the otter?
The (h)otter of the two.

How should we know that a lion has whiskers?
Because he is bearded in his den.

ANTS

What is smaller than an ant's mouth?
What goes into it.

What is the best way to kill ants?
Hit your uncle's wife on the head with a hammer!

What are the biggest kind of ants?
Giants.

ANYTHING

What ladies with a grace may feign,
And when you dust looks well again;
What many a man who has a wife
Submits to for a quiet life?
Anything!

APOTHECARIES

Why is an apothecary like a wood-cock?
Because he has a long bill.

APPLES

When are two apples alike?
When pared.

ARCHITECTS

Why should architects make excellent actors?
Because they are good at drawing houses.

ARGUMENTS

Why can the weight of an illuminating argument never be accurately determined?
Because as the hearer weighs the words the scales fall from his eyes.

ARMIES

When does a regiment undergo an operation?
When deprived of its arms.

Why is the United States government not going to have bayonets any longer in the army?
They are long enough.

When is an army totally destroyed?
When the soldiers are all in quarters.

Why is an army like a newspaper?
Because it has leaders, columns and reviews.

What is that which never flies except when its wings are broken?
An army.

When is a nation like a baby?
When it is in arms.

Why is a defeated army like wool?
Because it's worsted.

Why do pioneers go before the army?
To axe the way.

ARTISTS

Why, when you paint a man's portrait, may you be described as stepping into his shoes?
Because you make his feet yours (features).

Why should an artist never be short of cash?
If he knows his business he can always draw money.

Why are artists like washerwomen?
Because they are not satisfied until their works are "hung on the line."

Why is it extraordinary not to find a painter's studio as hot as an oven?
Because it is there that he makes his bread.

Why is an artist stronger than a horse?
Because he can draw the capitol at Washington all by himself, and take it clean away in his pocket if necessary.

Why is a marine painter like a large vessel?
Because he draws so much water.

What does an artist like to draw best?
His salary.

Why should painters never allow children to go into their studios?
Because of them easels (the measles) which are there.

AUCTIONS

How does an auctioneer look when conducting a sale?
For-bidding.

What sort of a face does an auctioneer like best?
One that is for-bidding.

Why is credit not given at an auction?
Because all goods brought to the hammer must be paid for—on the nail!

What sort of face does the auctioneer like best?
Face value.

Why is no country free?
Because anybody is liable to be sold by auction whom it is possible for the auctioneer to take in.

Just state the difference between an auction and sea-sickness.
One is a sale of effects, the other the effects of a sail.

AUGERS

Why is a bad gimlet like a prophesier of ill events?
Because it is an auger-ill.

AUTHORS

What is the queerest animal there is?
An author, because his tail (tale) grows out of his head.

Why is an author like a Chinaman?
Because his tale (tail) comes out of his head.

Why are authors who treat of physiognomy like soldiers?
Because they write about face.

What is the difference between a goose and an author?
A goose has many quills, but an author can make a goose of himself with one quill.

Why are writers apt to have the blues?
Because they are so pen-sive.

Why are plagiarists like Long Branch hotel-keepers with newly-married couples?

Because they are accustomed to sea-side dears (seize ideas), and to make the most out of them that is possible!

AUTOMOBILES

What will eventually change the size of the auto?

The demand for more gauge (mortgage) which the present fad creates.

Why is an automobilist who exceeds the speed limit like a social reprobate?

Because he's too fast.

Why is a muddy road a guardian of the public safety?

Because it reduces the speed of autos.

Why is an autoist whose machine has been completely wrecked like a reformed autoist?

Because he has suddenly given up motoring.

AVARICE

Why is avarice like bad memory?

Because it is always for getting.

BABIES

Why is a baby like wheat?

It is first cradled, then thrashed, and at last becomes the flower (flour) of the family.

Which is bigger, Mr. Bigger, or Mr. Bigger's baby?

The baby is a little Bigger.

Why is a new-born baby like a gale of wind?

Because it begins with a squall.

When is the molasses wedding?

When the first baby is old enough to lick.

What is the difference between a young baby and a night cap?

One is born to wed, and the other is worn to bed.

Why is a crying baby like a sunflower?
Because it's mostly yell-o(w).

Why is a new-born babe like a donkey's tail?
Because it was never seen before.

What is the difference between a baby and a pair of shoes?
One is what I was; the other is what I wear.

Why are young children like castles in the air?
Because their existence is only in-fancy.

Why are babies like soldiers in a campaign?
Because they are infantry in arms.

Why does a baby boy always receive a hearty welcome in a family?
Because it never comes a-miss.

When is a baby like a breakfast cup?
When it's a tea thing (teething).

What is the difference between a baby and a shipwrecked sailor?
One clings to its ma, and the other to his (s)par.

Why is an infant like a diamond?
It is a "dear little thing."

When is a baby most like a cherub?
When it continually doth cry.

What is the difference between a sixteen-ounce baby and a man writing energetically on his typewriter?
One weighs a pound, and the other pounds away.

What is the difference between a person born in this country and one born in Germany?
The one born in Germany comes here with his clothes on, and the one born in this country comes with his clothes off.

What is the difference between the cradle and the grave?
The one is for the first born, the other for the last bourn!

What is the difference between a cow and a baby?
One gives milk and the other drinks milk.

BACHELORS

Why doesn't a bachelor take a partner with him on the ocean of life?

Because he is afraid it might not be Pacific.

How do we know that bachelors are bad grammarians?

Because they decline to conjugate.

Why are bachelors like old wood?

Because it is hard to get them started, but when they do take flame they burn prodigiously.

Why should timid bachelors marry widows?

Because they can't marry amiss (a miss) then.

Why should a bachelor never marry a girl named Ann?

"An" is always an indefinite article.

Why does a bachelor who has a counterfeit half-dollar passed on him want to get married?

To get a better half.

Why is an old bachelor always in the right?

Because he is never miss-taken.

What part of their infant tuition have old bachelors and old maids most profited by?

Learning to go alone.

Why don't bachelors like the capital of Ireland?

Because they don't "go in" for "Dublin."

Why are bachelors like criminals?

Because they hate to go to "court."

BAKERS

Why is a baker a most improvident person?

Because he is continually selling that which he needs (kneads) himself.

Why is a baker like some very disreputable people?

Because he's a loafer and a white-cap.

Why is a baker a faithful friend?

Because he is a friend in knead.

BALDNESS

Which is the nearer heaven, a bald-headed man or a man with thick hair?
The first, because there isn't a hair between him and heaven.

What is that which no man wants, but which if any man has he will not part with for untold wealth?
A bald head.

Why don't women become bald as soon as men?
Because they wear their hair longer.

Why is the first row in a theater called the "bald-headed" row?
Because the occupants are scalped for their tickets.

Where should the American eagle sit in the theater?
In the bald-headed row.

Why is an old man's head like a song executed by an indifferent singer?
Because it is often terribly bawled (bald).

Why is a bald head like heaven?
Because it is a bright and shining spot, and there's no parting there.

Why is a bald-headed man like Paradise?
Because there will be no more parting or dying there.

What's good for a bald head?
Plenty of hair.

Why is a bald-headed man like the North Pole?
Because it is a great white bear (bare) spot.

What makes people bald-headed?
Want of hair.

Why is a bald-headed man like a hunting dog?
He makes a little "hare" go a great way.

What is the most difficult lock to pick?
One from a bald head.

What is the difference between a bare head and a hair bed?
One flees for shelter and the other is a shelter for fleas.

What is the difference between a bald-headed man and an angler with only two "flies"?

One has a "bare pate"; the other a "pair bait."

When is a bald-headed man apt to be reminded of his youthful days?

When he thinks of his top.

BALLOONS

Why are balloons in the air like vagrants?

Because they have no visible means of support.

Why is the proprietor of a balloon like a phantom?

Because he's an airy-naught (aëronaut).

Why is a balloonist greatly to be envied?

Because he rises rapidly in the world and has excellent prospects.

BANKRUPTCY

Why is selling off bankrupt goods like preparing a dish of soup?

Because it is a liquidation of stock.

What is the difference between a bankrupt and a feather-bed?

The one is "hard up" and the other is soft down.

Why are bankrupts more to be pitied than idiots?

Because bankrupts are broken, while idiots are only cracked.

What is the difference between a clock and a bankrupt?

One goes right on when you wind it up, the other does not go on after it is wound up.

When may a country gentleman's property be said to consist of feathers?

When his estates are all entails (hen tails).

Why is Brooklyn Bridge like a firm in trouble?

Because it's suspended.

BANKS

What is the difference between the wreck of a bank and the wreck of a ship?

The latter is caused by the presence of rocks, the former by the scarcity of "rocks."

Why is an absconding bank cashier like an air gun?
Because he goes off loaded and makes no report.

Why are the men appointed to wind up the affairs of a bank whose treasurer has defaulted, as bad as the treasurer himself?
Because the receiver is as bad as the thief.

Why is a banker's clerk necessarily well informed?
Because he is continually taking notes.

Why do bankers always hear the latest financial news?
Because they have a cashier (cash ear).

BARBERS

What is the difference between the manner of the death of a barber and a sculptor?
One curls up and dies and the other makes faces and busts.

Why has a barber more than one life?
Because he dyes (dies) very often.

BARRELS

In what place are two heads better than one?
In a barrel.

When is wine like a pig's tooth?
When it is in a hog's head.

Why is a leaky barrel like a coward?
Because it "runs."

BASE-BALL

Where is the largest diamond in Boston kept?
In the base-ball field.

What play had the longest run of the season?
Base-ball.

When may a base-ball nine say its "cake is all dough"?
When it does not have a good batter.

Why is a base-ball umpire like a dog?
Because he wears a muzzle, snaps at flies, and is always chasing fowls.

BATHING

When does a bather capture a large bird?
When he takes a duck in the water.

BATS

Which is the most dangerous bat that flies in the air?
A brickbat.

BEARDS

When is a man incapable of performing a bare-faced action?
When he wears a heavy beard and mustache.

BEAUTY

Why is a woman's beauty like a bank note?
Because when once changed it soon goes.

What herb is most injurious to a lady's beauty?
Thyme.

How can you tell a girl of the name of Ellen that she is everything that is delightful in eight letters?
U-r-a-bu-t-l-n!

BEDS

What is it everybody wants to own, yet no one wants to keep?
A-bed.

Why is a man who has parted from his bed like one compelled to keep it?
He is bed-ridden.

Why is a bed cover like a blister?
Because it's a counter-pane.

Why is a train of cars like a bed bug?
They both run over sleepers.

When may a man be said to breakfast before he gets up?
When he takes a "roll" in bed.

What is the last thing you take off before going to bed?
Your feet from off the floor.

When does a bed become a vehicle?
When it is a little buggy.

What is the first thing you do when you get into bed?
You make an impression.

Why do we all go to bed?
Because the bed will not come to us.

When you go to bed, why are your slippers like a deferred resolution?
Because they are put off till the next day.

Formed long ago, yet made to-day,
I'm most in use when others sleep;
What few would like to give away,
And none would like to keep.
A bed.

Why are indolent persons' beds too short for them?
Because they lie too long in them.

What is it that has four legs and only one foot?
A bedstead.

When would a bed make the best hunting ground?
When it is made anew for rest (a new forest).

How can you awake in the morning without an alarm clock?
By listening to the bed-"ding" (not tick).

What heard the bed-tick?
The chiffonier.

BEES

How do bees dispose of their honey?
They put it in combs and sell (cell) it.

Why did Johnny's teacher put him in the B class?
Because he had hives.

What is the difference between a bee-hive and a bad potato?
None. One is a bee-holder; a bee-holder is a speck'd 'tatur, and a speck'd 'tatur is a bad potato.

When is a bee a great nuisance?
When it is a humbug.

Why is a beehive like a spectator?
Because it is a beeholder (beholder).

What's the difference between a bee and a donkey?
One gets all the honey, and the other all the whacks (wax).

What is there remarkable about a bee?
Why, ordinarily it has but little to say, yet generally carries its point.

What is the difference between a piece of honeycomb and a black eye?
One is produced by a laboring bee, the other by a be-laboring.

Why is confessing to a father confessor like killing bees?
Because you unbuzz-em (unbosom)!

Like which four letters of the alphabet is a honey-producing insect when in small health?
Like A B C D (a bee seedy).

BEGGARS

Why is a blind beggar like a wig?
He is cur-led.

Why is a beggar like an attorney?
Because he is a solicitor.

Why is a beggar like a baker?
Because he needs (kneads).

Why is a lame beggar inconsistent?
He asks for alms when he wants legs.

Why may a beggar wear a very short coat?
Because it will be long enough before he gets another.

Why is a ragged beggar like a clergyman near the end of his sermon?
He's tor'd his clothes.

Why are cripples and beggars similar to shepherds and fishermen?
Because they live by hook and by crook.

Why is a beggar mending his clothes like a rich man?
Because he is making up his rents.

What class of people do I name when I say, "I can't improve"?
Mendicant (mend I can't).

BELLS

Why are bells the most obedient of inanimate things?
Because they make a noise whenever told.

What is the difference between a bell and an organ?
One rings when it's told (tolled), but the other will be blowed first.

Why are bells used to call people to church?
Because they have an inspire-ring influence.

Why is the tolling of a bell like the prayer of a hypocrite?
Because it's a solemn sound from a thoughtless tongue.

BIBLE

Who was the first girl mentioned in the Bible?
Jenny Sis (Genesis).

Who was the first man?
Chap. I. mentioned in Genesis.

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Why was Adam's first day the longest?
Because it had no Eve.

What sentence of three words did Adam use when he introduced himself to Eve, which reads the same backwards and forwards?
"Madam, I'm Adam."

What was Adam's favorite popular song?
There's only one girl in this world for me.

Why had Eve no fear of the measles?
Because she'd 'ad 'em (Adam).

Who was the first man condemned to hard labor for life?
Adam.

Why did Adam bite the apple Eve offered to him?
Because he had no knife.

When was gambling mentioned in the Bible?
When Adam and Eve threw up a paradise (pair-o'-dice) for an apple.

How do we know that they had a telephone in the garden of Eden?
Their number was 281 (two ate one) apple.

Why was Eve made?
For Adam's Express Company.

What is the first family quarrel mentioned in the Bible?
When Adam and Eve raised Cain.

What did Adam first plant in his garden?
His foot.

What did he raise in his garden?
Cain.

When were walking sticks first mentioned in the Bible?
When Eve presented Adam with a little Cain.

At what season did Eve eat the apple?
Early in the fall.

Why didn't the ancients use slates and pencils?
Because the Lord told them to multiply on the face of the earth.

Do you know about the baseball game in the Bible?
Eve stole first; Adam stole second; Gideon rattled the pitchers; Goliath was put out by David, and the prodigal son made a home run.

What five Old Testament characters in one family when named prove that Eve believed in corporal punishment?
Adam, Seth, Eve, Cain, Abel.

How long did Cain hate his brother?
As long as he was Abel.

Why didn't Noah catch more fish than he did when in the ark?
Because he only had two worms.

Who was the first electrician?
Noah. He made the ark (arc) light on Mt. Ararat.

Why didn't they play cards in the Ark?
Because Noah's wife sat on the deck.

What kind of preserves did they have in the ark?
Preserved pairs.

Where did Noah keep his bees?
In the ark hives (archives).

How do we know that there was a pig in the ark?
Because they had Ham.

Why didn't the dog want to go in the ark?
Because he had a bark (barque) of his own.

How do we know that liquor was made in the ark?
Because the kangaroo went in with hops, and bruin (brewin') followed soon after.

Where was Noah when the light went out?
In d' ark.

Why did not the last dove return to the ark?
Because she had sufficient ground for remaining.

When was paper money first mentioned in the Bible?
When the dove brought the green-back to the ark.

What did Lot's wife turn to?
Rubber.

What did the children of Israel do for butter during the famine?
Lot's wife looked back and was lost, and all the family but-her was saved.

If Lot had gotten too fresh, what could he have done?
Gone back and licked his wife.

What did Lot do when he learned his wife's fate?
Went out and got a fresh one.

Who had the first entrance into a theatre?
Joseph, when he was taken from the family circle and put in the pit.

Who was the straightest man in the Bible?
Joseph, because Pharaoh made a ruler out of him.

When was tennis mentioned in the Bible?
When Joseph served in Pharaoh's Court.

Why were the brokers in the panic of 1773 like Pharaoh's daughter?
They saved a little profit (prophet) from the rushes on the banks.

How were the Egyptians paid for the goods taken by the Israelites the night of their flight?
They received a check on the bank of the Red Sea.

Why should no man starve on the desert of Arabia?
Because of the sandwiches (sand which is) there.

How came the sandwiches there?
The tribe of Ham was bred there and mustered.

When was medicine mentioned in the Bible?
When the Lord gave Moses two tablets.

When did Moses sleep five in a bed?
When he slept with his four fathers (forefathers).

What did Job's wardrobe consist of?
Three wretched comforters.

What man had no father?
Joshua, the son of Nun.

Why was Ruth rude to Boaz?
Because she pulled his ears and trod on his corn.

Why was Goliath surprised when the stone from David's sling hit him?
Because such a thing never entered his head before.

Who is the smallest man in the Bible?
Bildad, the Shu-hite (shoe-height).

When was the automobile mentioned in the Bible?
When Elijah "went up on high."

Who was the strongest man in the Bible?
Jonah, because the whale couldn't hold him after he got him down.

How did Jonah feel when the whale swallowed him?
He felt down in the mouth.

What did he think when the whale swallowed him?
He thought he was going to blubber, but he didn't.

Who was Jonah's tutor?
The whale who brought him up.

Why did the whale throw up Jonah?
Because Jonah was not ready to digest (die just) yet.

How did the whale that swallowed Jonah obey one of the divine commandments?
Jonah was a stranger and he took him in.

If a bee could stand on its hind legs, what blessing would it invoke?
A bee-attitude.

Who was the first nobleman mentioned in the Bible?
The barren (Baron) fig tree.

When was Paul a baker?
When he went to Phillipi (fill a pie).

Why is Satan always a gentleman?
Because being the imp-o'-darkness, he can never be imp-o'-lite.

What animal existed before the creation?
The great K-hoss (Chaos).

Who was the fastest runner in the world?
Adam; because he was first in the human race.

Was mother Eve high or low church?
Adam thought her Evangelical.

Why should Adam have been the happiest of husbands?
Because he had no mother-in-law.

What is that which Adam never saw, never possessed, yet left two to each of his children?
Parents.

Who ate the first apple?
The first pair (pear).

Who first invented gambling in the world?
Adam and Eve, when they left the Garden of Eden they left a Paradise (pair o' dice) behind them.

What great corporation does Eve represent?
Adam's Express Company.

When was fruit known to use bad language?
When the first apple cursed the first pair (pear).

How were Adam and Eve gotten out of the garden?
They were snaked out.

What proof have we that Adam used sugar?
He raised Cain.

How were Adam and Eve kept from gambling?
Their pair of dice (paradise) was taken away from them.

What is the difference between Noah's ark and Joan of Arc?
One was made of gopher wood, and the other was Maid of Orleans.

Where did Noah strike the first nail in the Ark?
On its head.

When was meat first introduced into the navy?
When Noah took Ham into the ark.

Which of the animals took the most baggage into the ark?
The elephant, for he carried his trunk.

What animal took the most money into the ark, and how much?
The duck had a bill, the frog a green back, all of them four quarters; but the skunk had four quarters and a s-cent—$1.01

Who was the first successful financier?
Noah, when he floated a company when everybody else was in a state of liquidation.

How did they illuminate the ark?
With arc-lights.

When was paper money first used?
When the dove brought the green-back to Noah.

In what numerical order did Noah leave the Ark?
He came forth (fourth).

Why was the elephant late in leaving the ark?
Because he stopped to pack his trunk.

When was B the first letter in the alphabet?
In the days of No-a (Noah).

Why was Pharaoh's daughter like the Wall street merchants?
She found a little prophet in rushes on the bank.

Why was Pharaoh's daughter like a retired milkman?
Because she got a little prophet (profit) out of the water.

Why was Moses the most wicked man that ever lived?
Because he broke all the commandments at once.

What was the first banking transaction?
When Pharaoh received a check on the bank of the Red Sea that had previously been crossed by Moses.

What did the Egyptians do when they found themselves in the dark?
They turned on the Israe-lites.

Why should Samson have made a good actor?
Because he could so easily bring down a house.

What proof have we that they had sewing in the time of David?
Because he was hemmed in on all sides.

How did Jonah feel when swallowed by a whale?
He was down in the mouth and went to blubber.

When was the first game of cards played in the Bible?
When Neb-euchered-nezzar.

When is base-ball first mentioned in the Bible?
When the prodigal son made a home run.

Why are the Jews of the old law like bad debts?
Because they killed the prophets (profits).

Who were the first noblemen mentioned in the Bible?
Barren (Baron) fig tree, Lord how long, and Count thy days.

Why is a Zulu belle like a prophet?
She has little on 'er in her own country.

Why are potatoes and corn like certain sinners of old?
Because having eyes they see not, and having ears they hear not.

Why is it not flattery to tell an old lady that she is "as beautiful as an angel"?

Because, if we believe what we read, the angels must be very ancient.

Why is the world like a slate?

Because the children of men do multiply thereon.

Why are little children like cherubim?

Because they "continually do cry."

Who was the first that bore arms?

Adam.

What fur did Adam and Eve wear?

Bear skin (bare skin).

What kind of clothes did Adam and Eve wear in Paradise?

Bare-skin.

What most reminds us of old Mother Eve in our daily life?

A spare rib.

Where was the first Adams Express Company located?

In the Garden of Eden, when Eve was created.

Spell "Adam's Express Company" with three letters.

E-v-e.

What did Adam and Eve live on?

On Terra firma.

What did Adam and Eve do when they were expelled from Eden?

They "raised Cain."

What stone should have been placed at the gate of Eden after the expulsion?

Adam ain't in (adamantine).

What was the first gift made by woman?

A Cain, given to Adam by Eve.

The following is a good sell if properly led up to: Who was the first man?

Adam?

Who was the first woman?

Eve.

Who killed Cain?

The answer will very likely be Abel.

When were there only two vowels?
In the days of No-a (Noah), before U and I were born.

What is the difference between Noah's ark and an archbishop?
One was a high ark, but the other is a hierarch.

What two animals carried the least into the ark?
The fox and cock, because they carried only a brush and comb between them.

In what place did the cock crow when all the world could hear him?
In Noah's ark.

Why was Noah like a hungry cat?
Because he went forty days and forty nights without finding Ararat.

Why was Noah in the Ark like a disappointed rat-catcher?
Because it was forty days before he saw ere-a-rat (Ararat).

What did the spider do when he left the ark?
He took a fly and went home.

What reason have we to think that Moses wore a wig?
Because he was sometimes seen with Aaron and sometimes without 'Air on (hair on).

Why were the early rulers of Israel called judges?
Because they presided over a Jewry.

Who was the greatest orator spoken of in the Bible?
Samson, because he brought the house down filled with his enemies.

Where did the witch of Endor live?
At Endor.

Who was a very short man spoken of in the Bible?
Nehemiah (knee-high Miah).

What one word in the Bible represents the father calling his son and the son's answering?
Ben Hadad (Ben, ha-dad).

What is that which was born without a soul, lived and got a soul, but died without a soul?
The whale that swallowed Jonah.

Why was the daughter of Herodias the fastest girl mentioned in Scripture?

Because she got a-head of John the Baptist on a charger.

In the opinion of a negro preacher, why did Jesus learn the carpenter's trade?

That he might build mansions for his people in heaven.

What is the sharpest instrument mentioned in the Bible?

The Acts (axe) of the Apostles.

Why is St. Paul like a white horse?

Because they both like Timothy.

What encouragement does the Bible give to a tobacco chewer?

He that is filthy let him be filthy still.

What robe is that which you cannot weave, you cannot buy, no one can sell, needs no washing, and lasts forever?

Robe of Righteousness.

Why is the printing press like the tree of life?

It brings forth leaves for the healing of the nations.

What does a man see every day that God never sees?

His equal.

In what respect do modern customs differ materially from ancient ones?

Formerly there were hewers of wood and drawers of water; now we have drawers of wood and ewers of water!

Which were made first, elbows or knees?

Knees—beasts were created before men.

Why is man superior to woman?

Because woman is only a side issue.

At what time was Adam married?

Upon his wedding Eve.

Why was Adam's wife called Eve?

Because man's day of happiness was drawing to a close.

What one word will name the common parent of both beast and man?

A-dam!

If Adam and Eve and Pinch me went down to the river to bathe. And Adam and Eve were drowned, whom do you think would be saved?

Pinch me. When your friend says pinch me, you must do so.

Why is a printing-press like the forbidden fruit?

Because from it springs a knowledge of good and evil.

When Cain slew his brother, what suitable ejaculation from his lips would have also expressed his liability to punishment?

Amen-abel (amenable).

Why was Noah obliged to stoop on entering the Ark?

Because, although the Ark was high, Noah was a higher ark (hierarch).

How is it that Methuselah was the oldest man, when he died before his father?

His father was translated.

If Richard Jones were milking a cow too quickly, what ancient name would that animal mention?

Milk-easy-Dick (Melchisedek).

What did the sky-terrier do when he came out of the ark?

He went smelling about for ere-a-rat (Ararat) that was there to be found.

In what tongue did Balaam's donkey speak?

Probably in he-bray-ic (Hebraic).

If you become surety at a police-court for the re-appearance of prisoners, why are you like the most extraordinary ass that ever lived?

Because you act the part of a donkey to bail'em (Balaam).

What ancient king was often literally in his contemporaries' mouths?

A-gag!

How many soft-boiled eggs could the giant Goliath eat upon an empty stomach?

One, after which his stomach was not empty.

Who was hung for not wearing a wig?

Absalom!

What is the difference between Solomon and Rothschild?

One was king of the Jews, the other Jew of the kings.

Why was the whale that swallowed Jonah like a rich milkman?
Because he got a great prophet (profit) out of water.

Which are the two smallest things mentioned in the Scripture?
The widow's mite and the wicked flee.

What nation is it which when allied with us becomes the very home of despair?
Tartar-us!

Why was Adam of more consequence than Eve?
Eve was nothing but a side issue.

What material was Eve's wedding-dress made of?
Bear skin (bare skin).

Why didn't Adam and Eve have any molasses?
Because they tried to raise Cain before they got Abel.

Why is an orange peel on a sidewalk like an apple?
Because they have both given man a tumble.

Why are apples the enemies of pears?
Because it was an apple that drove a pair out of the Garden of Eden.

Who sounded the first bell?
Cain, when he hit A-bel.

When was Noah in America?
When he was on the Ark-and-saw.

What man mentioned in the Scripture felt the worst?
Jonah—"He was down in the mouth for days."

What is the difference between Nineveh and a donkey-boy?
One is in Assyria, the other is an ass-hurryer!

Why is your nose like St. Paul's?
Because it is made of flesh.

When was the theatrical business first spoken of in the Bible?
When Eve appeared for Adam's benefit.

BICYCLES

Why do we call a fast bicycle rider a "scorcher"?
Because he goes out at a hot pace, makes pedestrians boiling mad,

warms up the police, gets roasted in court, and thinks it is a burning shame.

Why is a nursery pin like a detective's bicycle?
Because it is a chainless safety for secret service.

Why is Father Time like a fashionable young man?
Because he travels by cycles (bicycles).

BIOGRAPHY

What was the name of Washington's valet?
Valley Forge.

Why was Washington buried standing?
Because he couldn't lie.

When did Washington first take a carriage?
When he took a hack at the cherry tree.

How do we know that Bonaparte was in funds after the battle of Leipsic?
Because he had received a check on the bank of the Elbe.

What author was also an American general?
Sheridan.

When did Dewey cease to be an admiral?
When he became his wife's second mate.

What did Sheridan say when he entered a room, the seats of which were all occupied?
"Will anyone move that I may take the chair?"

Why can we send no more dispatches to Washington?
Because he is dead.

Why should Mr. Heinz not be asked to be judge at a beauty show?
Because he would pick-a-lilly.

Why is Gillott a very wicked man?
Because he makes people steal (steel) pens and they say that they do right (write).

When was Napoleon First most shabbily dressed?
When out at Elba (elbow).

What does Washington, D. C., stand for?
Washington, Daddy of his Country.

What killed Julius Cæsar?
Roman punches.

My first two are what Gladstone wanted; my last two are what Gladstone hated; my whole expresses what Gladstone was.
Reformatory.

Captain Cook made three voyages around the world, and he was killed in one of these voyages. In which voyage was he killed?
Last one.

What was Joan of Arc made of?
Maid of Orleans?

What killed Joan of Arc?
Too much hot stake.

Why is the death of Socrates like a garret?
It is an Attic story.

Where did Cæsar go on his thirty-ninth birthday?
Into his fortieth year.

What's the difference between the Duke of Wellington and Jonah?
One was brought up at Eton; the other was eaten and brought up

---

Why has Blondin the most wonderful digestion?
Because he lived on a rope and thrived.

What American has had the largest family?
Washington, the "Father of his Country."

Why was Rossini a very unnatural son?
Because he made a Stab-at Mater.

What poet does everybody want?
Moore (more).

Why was Lord Nelson like a coward?
Because the last thing Nelson did was to die for his country, and that's about the last thing a coward will do.

We say: "Strike while the iron is hot." But what did Cromwell say?
"Not only strike while the iron is hot, but make it hot."

Lincoln was asked how long a man's legs ought to be to be the most serviceable? What was his answer?
Long enough to reach the ground.

Why is the church of St. Paul, London, like a bird's nest?
Because it was built by a wren (Sir Christopher Wren).

Can you tell me of what parentage Napoleon I. was?
Of course I can! (Of Corsican).

Archimedes said, "Give me a standing place and I will move the earth with a lever." Goethe solved the problem. How?
Make good thy standing-place and move the world.

BIRDS

Why do birds clean out a fruit tree so quickly?
Because they take away a peck at a time.

What small bird is large enough to overcome a man?
A lark.

Why are birds melancholy in the morning?
Because their little bills are all over-due (dew).

What bird can lift the heaviest weight?
The crane.

When does a cherry fail in business?
When the red-breast sends in its robin-bill.

My first is used in driving, my second is needy, my third is a nickname, and my whole is a bird.
Whip-poor-will.

Why do little birds in their nest agree?
For fear of falling out.

What bird is rude?
The mocking bird.

Why is the bank of England like a thrush?
It often changes its notes.

What bird is low-spirited?
The blue-bird.

Why does a sparrow resemble india-rubber?
Because he is a gutter percher (gutta percha).

What bird is in season all the year?
The weather-cock.

When is a house like a bird?
When it has wings.

How do we know the nightingales are sports?
Because they have a high time after dark.

Why would an owl be offended at your calling him a pheasant?
Because you would be making game of him.

What is that which has four legs and flies in the air?
Two canary birds.

What birds move in the highest circles?
Eagles.

If you saw a bird sitting on a twig and you wished to get the twig without disturbing the bird, what would you do?
Wait till he flew off.

Why is a canary like a collier?
Because he is caged up all day and has to peck for his living.

Why is the flight of an eagle a most unpleasant sight to witness?
Because it is a high soar (eye-sore).

What is that thing, and the name of a bird, which if we had not we should die?
A swallow.

In what sort of syllables ought a parrot to be taught to speak?
In polly-silly-bills.

Why are birds' nests like beds?
Because they are laid in.

When is a pigeon like a glass?
When it's a tumbler.

How do canary birds pay for themselves?
By giving their notes.

BLACKSMITHS

Why are blacksmiths undesirable citizens?
Because they forge and steel (steal) daily.

What insect does a blacksmith manufacture?
He makes the fire-fly.

Why is a blacksmith like a safe steed?
Because one is a horse-shoer and the other is a sure horse.

Why is a smith like a boatman?
He handles the ore (oar).

Why is a blacksmith the most dissatisfied of all mechanics?
Because he's always on the strike for wages.

Why is a smith a dangerous companion?
Because he deals in forgery.

Why is a blacksmith the most likely person to make money by causing the alphabet to quarrel?
Because he makes A poke-R and shove-L, and gets paid for so doing.

BLINDNESS

Why are blind people compassionate?
Because they feel for other people.

What was it a blind man took at breakfast which restored his sight?
He took a cup and saw, sir (saucer).

Why is a blind man apt to be an idiot?
The old adage says, out of sight out of mind.

Why can a blind man always see his father?
Because the father is always apparent (a parent).

What is the difference between a blind man and a disabled sailor?
One can't see to go and the other can't go to sea (see).

What did the blind man say to the policeman when he told him he would arrest him if he did not move on?
I'd just like to see you.

If a woman asks her blind lover the color of a flower, what would he say?
I have no i-dea (eye, dear).

Why are a pin and a poker like a blind man?
Because they have a head and no eyes.

What is that, though blind itself, guides the blind?
A staff or stick.

Who are they that feel most for their friends?
The blind.

Why should the first expression of a blind man, when he has recovered his sight, be characterized by coldness?
Because it would be icy (I see).

BLONDES

What is most likely to become a fair-haired woman?
Why, a fair-haired little girl.

BLOWS

Why is a thump like a hat?
Because it is felt.

BLUSHING

Why is a blush like a young lady?
Because it becomes a woman.

Why is a blush an anomaly?
Because a woman who blushes is admired for her cheek.

BOARDERS

What host has the strangest guest?
The one that boards a ship.

BOARDS OF TRADE

Why is the board of trade a den of wild beasts?
The members are bulls and bears.

BOASTING

Why is a boaster like an india-rubber ball?
Because he is empty and full of bounce.

Why is the humiliated braggart like the small boy who has drunk the washing fluid?
Because he has swallowed the lye.

BOATS

Why cannot a New York tug boat go straight?
Because some tow in, and the others tow out.

When is a boat like a heap of snow?
When it is a-drift.

How would you increase the speed of a slow boat?
Make her fast.

Why is a ferry boat like a good rule?
Because it works both ways.

When does a waterman resemble an Indian?
When he feathers his scull.

Why is a steamboat a good place to sleep in?
It leaves a-wake behind.

Why, when you are out in a boat, should you never be surprised by a sudden squall?
Because, if you go for a sale, you may expect to be sold.

BOILS

This riddle was suggested by Josh Billings: "Where is the best place to have a boil?"
On another fellow.

BONES

When do broken bones begin to make themselves useful?
When they begin to knit.

BOOKKEEPERS

Why are bookkeepers like hens?
Because they have to scratch for a living.

BOOKS

When is the best time to read a book?
When autumn turns the leaves.

Why is an interesting book like a hard drinker's nose?
Because it's read (red) to the very end.

How may bookkeeping be taught in a lesson of three words?
Never lend them.

What part of a fish is like the end of a book?
The fin-is.

When are houses like books?
When they have stories in them.

Why is an unbound book like a young lady in bed?
It is in sheets.

How do you pronounce V O L I X?
Volume nine.

Why are books your best friends?
Because, when they bore you, you can shut them up without giving offence.

Who are the best bookkeepers?
The people who never return a book.

Why is a book like a king?
It has many pages.

What's the difference between a cat and a book?
One has the claws at the end of the paws, and the other has the pause at the end of the clause.

Why are the pages of a book like the days of man?
Because they are numbered.

Why is a nobleman like a book?
Because he has a title.

Why are parliamentary reports called "Blue Books"?
Because they are never re(a)d.

Why is this charming book like giving you your choice of two sorts of meat for dinner?
Because it's beef or ewe (before you).

When is a blue book not a blue book?
When it's read (red) of course.

What is the best book?
A pocketbook.

BORES

Why is a great bore like a tree?
Because both appear best when leaving.

Why is a talkative young man like a young pig?
Because, if he lives, he is likely to become a great bore (boar).

Why is a plausible but prosy man like an unrifled gun?
Because he's a smooth bore.

BORROWING

How can you make a tall man short?
Borrow five dollars of him.

BOTTLES

If I have a bottle nearly filled with water and well corked, how can I get out the water without drawing the cork or breaking the bottle?
Pressing the cork in the bottle.

BOXES

Why is a match-box without matches superior to all other boxes?
It is matchless.

BOXING

When is a boxer's eye like a barrel?
When it's bunged up.

What is the difference between a millionaire and a prize-fighter?
One makes money hand over fist while the other makes his fist hand over money.

What is the difference between a box of shoe polish and a negro sparring?
One is a box of blacking and the other is a black a-boxing.

What is the difference between a pugilist and a lap dog?
One faces the licks, and the other licks the face.

What is the difference between a pugilist and a man with a cold?
One knows his blows, and the other blows his nose.

Why should pugilists be treated with contempt?
Because they are too close-fisted.

Why is a tumbler like a pugilist?
Because he can't get his living without some assaults (summersaults).

BOYS

Why is a bad schoolboy like a postage stamp?
Both have to be licked to make them stick to their letters.

What is the difference between a bad schoolboy and a postage stamp?
One you lick with a stick and the other you stick with a lick.

Why is a very hungry boy like a common grub?
Each makes the butter fly.

When a boy falls into the water, what is the first thing he does?
He gets wet.

How does a boy look if you hurt him?
It makes him yell "Oh!" (yellow).

Why is a mischievous boy like a bottle of patent medicine?
When taken, must be well shaken.

What is the west side of a little boy's trousers?
Where the son sets.

Why is a school boy being flogged like your eye?
Because he is a pupil under the lash.

How does the postage-stamp have the advantage of the small boy?
It can never be licked but once.

Why is a school boy like a postage stamp?
Because he gets licked and put in a corner.

What two letters do boys delight in, to the annoyance of their elders?
Two T's.

When is a boy not a boy?
When he is abed.

When is a boy not a boy?
When he is a regular brick.

When is a boy in a pantry like a poacher?
When he walks into the preserves.

When are boys like bears?
When barefooted.

What is the difference between a boy "over whose head twelve summers have passed," and a man taking a nap?
One is twelve, the other a dozing (dozen).

What lesson of life can the small boy learn from the fire engine?
It must work or it can't play.

What is the difference between a school boy studying his lessons and a farmer watching his cows?
One is stocking his mind and the other is minding his stock.

What do you call a boy who eats all the melons he can get, whether they are green or old?
He is what we call a pains-taking youngster.

If a good boy wears his pants out what will he do?
Wear them in again.

Why is a bad boy like cake?
Because a good beating makes him better.

What changes a lad into a lady?
The letter Y.

What does the letter B do for boys as they advance in years?
As they grow older it makes them bolder.

Why is a healthy boy like the United States?
Because he possesses a good constitution.

BRAINS

What animal has the most brains?
A hog, because he has a hogshead full of them.

BRAVERY

When does even the bravest heart turn to stone?
When it becomes a little bolder.

BREAD

Why is bread like the sun?
Because it rises from the (y)east.

Why is a loaf of bread four weeks old like a rat running into a hole?
Because you can see its tail (stale).

BREATH

What is that which you cannot hold ten minutes, although it is as light as a feather?
Your breath.

BRIDGES

What is the smallest bridge in the world?
The bridge of your nose.

What bridge creates the most anxiety?
A suspension bridge.

What bridge has never been walked on?
The bridge of the nose.

What bridge is warranted to support any strain?
The bridge of a fiddle.

If the Forth Bridge were to collapse, what would they do?
Construct a fifth.

BRUNETTES

Why does a brunette's face resemble a wet day?
It is not fair.

BUGS

Which is the largest bug?
Humbug.

BUILDINGS

What is the highest public building in Boston?
The public library has the most stories.

BURGLARS

If a burglar got into a cellar, would the coal shoot (chute)?
No, the kindling would (wood).

BUSSES

What is worse than raining cats and dogs?
Hailing omnibuses.

Why is an omnibus on a wet day like a medical student?
Because it is crammed and allowed to pass.

Why ought an omnibus to be considered secure from lightning?
Because it has a conductor.

BUTCHERS

What tradesman should always be prosperous?
The sausage-maker, because he makes both ends meet (meat).

Why are butchers thieves?
Because they steal a knife and cut away with it.

Why is a butcher's cart like his top boots?
Because he carries his calves there.

Why is a butcher's cart like his stockings?
Because he carries his calves there.

Why does the butcher's wife always keep the books?
Because the business is a joint affair.

Why is a butcher at work like a man driving a sleigh?
Because he is slaying.

BUTTER

What is the difference between man and butter?
The older a man gets the weaker he gets, but the older the butter is the stronger it is.

When is butter like Irish children?
When it is made into little pats.

BUTTER-FLIES

What is the difference between a butter-fly and a volcano?
In the latter the lava comes out of the crater, in the former the "crater" comes out of the larva.

BUTTONS

Give a good definition of a button.
A small affair that is always coming off.

CABLES

What is the deepest and coldest laid scheme?
The Atlantic cable.

CABS

Why should a cabman be brave?
Because none but the brave deserve the fair (fare).

Why do cabmen prefer tall ladies to short ones?
Because the higher the fare (fair) the better they like it.

Why is a patent safety Hansom cab a dangerous carriage to drive in?
Because the cabman always drives over your head.

When is a disengaged cab like a Yankee witness?
When it is on the stand.

If a cab is hired by a woman that has "seen better days," why may the cabman be said to lose?
He has a "reduced fare" (fair).

CANDLES

Why is it impossible for a candle maker to be good?
Because all his works are wick-ed, and when brought to light are only made light of.

When are candles and women most alike?
When sputtering.

What snuff-taker is that whose box gets fuller the more snuff he takes?
A pair of snuffers.

What do we do when, to increase the effect, we diminish the cause?
Snuff the candle.

When is a candle in a passion?
When it is put out or when it flares up.

I lived upon my own substance and died when I had devoured myself.
A candle.

Little Miss Nannycot, in a white petticoat and a red nose; the longer she stands the shorter she grows.
Candle.

When is a candle like an ill-conditioned, quarrelsome man?
When it is put out before it has time to flare up and blaze away.

Why is a candle like an atheist?
Because it's wicked.

Which burns longer, a wax or a tallow candle?
Neither; both burn shorter.

CANDY

Why is a stick of candy like a race horse?
The more you lick each the faster it goes.

What is the cheapest candy?
Horehound, because the advertisement of it reads constantly, "Horehound drops 10 cents a lb."

CANES

When does a cane take the place of a man's head?
When he hangs his hat upon it.

CANNIBALS

What soup do cannibals prefer?
The broth of a boy.

What is the greatest instance of cannibalism on record?
When a rash man ate a rasher!

What is a man that eats his mother-in-law?
Gladiator (glad he ate her).

CANNON

What are the features of a cannon?
Cannon-mouth, cannon-ize, and cannon-eers.

Why are cannon like trees?
People plant them and they shoot.

CARDS

What is that which is often brought to table, always cut, but never ıten?
A pack of cards.

When do cards most resemble wolves?
When they belong to a pack.

What game of cards is most played by soldiers?
Hazard or picket.

Why are convicts like a pack of cards?
Because there is a knave in every suit.

What is the hardest thing to deal with?
An old pack of cards.

Why is a game of cards like a timber-yard?
Because there are always a great many deals in it.

CARPENTERS

Why was the carpenter who fell through a scaffold complimented by his employer?
Because he went through his work so promptly.

When is a carpenter like circumstances?
When he alters cases.

Why is a retired carpenter like a lecturer?
Because he is an ex-planer.

Why are you better-looking than a carpenter?
Because he is a deal plainer (planer).

Why do carpenters have great faith in sooth-sayers?
They cannot work without an auger (augur).

Why is a carpenter that has mislaid his tools like a rich man that has lost his all?
Because both have lost their all (awl).

When is an honest carpenter a villain?
When counter fitting.

Why may carpenters reasonably believe there is no such thing as stone?
Because they never saw it.

There was a carpenter who made a cupboard-door; it proved too big; he cut it, and unfortunately then he cut it too little; he thereupon cut it again, and made it fit beautifully; how was this?
He didn't cut it enough the first time.

Why is a carpenter like a languid dandy?
Because he often feels a good deal board.

CARPETS

What is that which is bought by the yard and worn by the foot?
A carpet.

Why is a sleepy man like a carpet?
He will have his nap.

CARS

What is the difference between the sidewalk and an electric car?
Five cents.

Why are the passengers of an electric car like the current?
Because they make the car-go.

Why does a freight car need no locomotive?
The freight makes the car-go.

Why is a conductor on a car like a firefly?
Because he can make you a-light.

Why should one never complain of the price of a car ticket?
It is a "fare" thing.

Why does a woman press a street car button with her thumb and a man with his finger?
To stop the car, of course.

What is worse than raining cats and dogs?
Hailing street cars.

CASHIERS

What is the difference between a cashier and a school-master?
One tills the mind, while the other minds the till.

CATERPILLARS

Why is a caterpillar like a pancake?
Because it's the grub that makes the butter-fly.

When does a caterpillar improve in morals?
When he turns over a new leaf.

CATS

What is the difference between a cat and a match?
The cat lights on its feet, and the match on its head.

What makes a cat walk softly?
Oh, rats!

Why is a cat like the world?
It's fur from one end to the other.

Why does a puss purr?
For an obvious purr-puss (purpose).

How many tails has a cat?
Three. No cat has two tails; one cat has one more tail than no cat, therefore one cat has three tails.

How do you make a Maltese cross?
Pull its tail.

What does a cat have that no other animal has?
Kittens.

Why are cats like unskilful surgeons?
Because they mew-till-late, and destroy patients (patience).

What is it that is a cat and not a cat, and yet is a cat?
A kitten.

Why is a kitten biting her own tail like a good manager?
Because she makes both ends meet.

What plant is fatal to mice?
Cat-nip.

What kind of a cat do we usually find in a large library?
A cat-alogue.

Why is a cat on her hind legs like a waterfall?
She is a cat-erect (cataract).

Why is a cat going up three pairs of stairs like a high hill?
Because she's a-mounting (a mountain).

What is the difference between a cat and a document?
One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other has pauses at the end of its clauses.

Why does a cat rest better in summer?
Because summer brings a cat-a-pillow (caterpillar).

Why does a cat look on first one side and then another when she enters a room?
Because she can't look on both sides at the same time.

Why is a cat like a tattling person?
Because it is a tail-bearer (tale-bearer).

Why is a black cat looking out of a garret window of a corner house like an orange?
Because it looks round.

CATTLE

When is a cow not a cow?
When it is turned into a pasture.

When does a cow become real estate?
When she is turned into a field.

What is the difference between a cow and an old chair?
One gives milk, the other gives way (whey).

When was beef the highest that it has ever been?
When the cow jumped over the moon.

How do we know that the cow jumped over the moon?
By the Milky-way.

What flower most resembles a bull's mouth?
A cowslip.

Why is a mad bull of a very convivial disposition?
Because he offers a horn to all he meets.

What was it that lived to see Christmas, didn't see New Year's, and died in the Spring?
A calf that was drowned in a spring between Christmas and New Year's.

Why should you always choose white cows?
Because it is no use milking those that are dun before you begin.

Which has most legs, a cow or no cow?
No cow has eight legs.

Why does a calf wag it's tail?
Because it wants to.

When does a cow change places with her keeper?
When she bellows, for then she is a cow herd.

What domestic animal has cannibalistic tendencies?
The cow, because it always wants to eat its fodder.

CAUTION

Why is a cautious, prudent man like a pin?
Because his head prevents him from going too far.

CEMETERIES

On which side of a country church is the graveyard always situated?
On the outside, of course.

CHAIRS

When does a chair dislike you?
When it can't bear you.

When is a chair like a lady's dress?
When it's sat-in.

When is a chair treated spitefully?
When you have it caned simply because it cannot bear you.

Why is an old chair that has a new bottom put to it like a paid bill?
Because it has been re-seated (receipted).

Why is an uncomfortable seat like comfort?
Because it is devoid of ease (e's).

CHARADES

My first is what my second is not; my whole you put in a corner.
What-not.

My first is a reflection, my second not so much, and my whole none at all?
Thought-less.

Upon what musical instrument are the most High Church people skilful performers?
The cymbals (Symbols).

My whole is a noted commentator. If you behead him he is a singing bird. If you behead the bird, you have a famous old ship.

Clark, lark, ark.

My first is a point, my second a span,
In my whole often ends the greatness of man.

Dotage.

My first makes company,
My second shuns company,
My third assembles company,
My whole puzzles company.

Co-nun-drum.

My first denotes equality, my second, inferiority, and my whole superiority.

Matchless.

My first is formal, my second is a flower, and my whole is a flower.

Prim-rose.

In my first my second sat, my third and fourth I ate?

In-sat-i-ate!

When is a charade like a fir-tree?

When you get a deal bored (board) from its length.

My whole is a sea-monster. If you behead him, he becomes an American clergyman. Then, if you behead the clergyman, you have an English beverage.

Whale, hale, ale.

My number, definite and known,
Is ten times ten, told ten times o'er;
Though half of me is one alone,
And half exceeds all count and score.

Thou-sand.

You name me once, and I am famed
For deeds of noble daring;
You name me twice, and I am found
In savage customs sharing?

Tar-tar.

When you stole my first, I lost my second, and you are the only person to give me my whole.

Hearts-ease!

Complete I betoken the presence of death,
Devoid of all symptoms of life-giving breath;
But banish my tail, and, surpassingly strange,
Life, ardor, and courage, I get by the change?
Corpse; corps.

My first doth affliction denote,
Which my second is destined to feel
But my whole is the sure antidote
That affliction to soothe and to heal.
Wo-man!

Water soft is my first, water hard is my second,
Sticks made of my whole are by many sweet reckon'd.
Liquor-ice (licorice).

My first is my second and my whole.
Pa-pa.

My first of anything is half,
My second is complete;
And so remains until once more
My first and second meet.
Semi-circle.

What word is it which expresses two things we men all wish to get, one bringing the other, but which if we do get them the one bringing the other, we are unhappy?
Mis-fortune!

My first a baby does when you pinch it;
My second a lady says when she doesn't mean it;
My third exists and no one e'er has seen it;
And my whole contains the world's best half within it?
Cri-no-line.

An ugly little fellow, that some might call a pet,
Was easily transmuted to a parson when he ate;
And when he set off running, an Irishman was he,
Then took to wildly raving, and hung upon a tree?
Cur, cur-ate, Cur-ran, currant!

My first may to a lady be a comfort or a bore,
My second, where you are, you may for comfort shut the door.
My whole will be a welcome guest
Where tea and tattle yield their zest.
Muff-in.

Upon a hill there is a mill, by this mill there is a walk, under this walk there is a key.

Milwaukee.

From a number that's odd cut off the head,
It then will even be.
Its tail, I pray, next take away,
Your mother then you'll see.
Seven—even—Eve.

By well employing my second you will never regret my first, and you will the more thoroughly enjoy my whole?

Past-time!

Three letters three rivers proclaim;
Three letters an ode give to fame;
Three letters an attribute name;
Three letters a compliment claim.
Ex Wye Dee, L E G (elegy), Energy, and You excel!

My first's a dirty little brute,
My second's at the end on't;
My third like many an honest man,
Is on a fool dependent.
Pig-tail.

I came to a field and couldn't get through it,
So I went to a school and learned how to do it?
Fence.

My first I hope you are,
My second I see you are,
My whole I know you are.
Wel-come.

My first is a bit of butter,
My next a bit of mutton,
My whole a little shutter,
Put on to pinch a glutton.
A but-ton.

My first is a game, my second is what we use our eyes for, my whole is a State of America.

Tennes-see.

Look in the papers, I'm sure to appear;
Look in the oven, perhaps I am there;

Sometimes I assist in promoting a flame,
Sometimes I extinguish—now, reader, my name?
Puff.

Take away one letter from me, and I murder; take away two and I probably shall die, if my whole does not save me?
Kill—ill—skill!

My love for you will never know
My first, nor get my second:
'Tis like your wit and beauty, so
My whole 'twill aye be reckoned.
End-less!

Without my first you'd look very strange;
My second you much want to be;
My whole is what many a lady has worn
At a ball, an assembly, or play?
Nose-gay!

May my first never be lost in my second,
To prevent me enjoying my whole.
Friend-ship.

My first is a pronoun, my second is used at weddings, and my whole is an inhabitant of the deep.
Her-ring.

The cat did my first, with a curl of her tail,
When the game she had made quite secure
By means of my second, and not of my whole,
As she ought to have done, I am sure?
Pur-chase!

My first is what mortals ought to do;
My second is what mortals have done;
My whole is the result of my first.
Love-err (lover).

My second belongs to my first; but my whole has nothing to do with either my first or my second.
Hogs-head.

My first is myself in a short little word,
My second's a puppet, and you are "my third."
I-dol.

My first I do, and my second—when I say you are my whole—I do not?

Love-lie (lovely).

My first is irrational,
My second is rational,
My third mechanical,
My whole scientific?

Horse-man-ship.

My first, a messenger of gladness;
My last, an instrument of sadness;
My whole looked down upon my last and smiled—
Upon a wretch disconsolate and wild.
But when my whole looked down and smiled no more,
That wretch's frenzy and his pain were o'er.

Sun-beam.

If you take my second from my first, you will my whole the length of the animal in question.

Cur-tail.

My second contains my first; and, therefore, it is my whole.

Light-house.

What's that? what's that? Oh, I shall faint,
Call, call the priest to lay it!
Transpose it, and to king and saint,
And great and good you pay it?

Spectre; respect.

When my first is broken, it stands in need of my second, and my whole is part of a lady's dress?

Rib-band.

I am a good state, there can be no doubt of it;
But those who are in, entirely are out of it.

Sane—insane.

If you were my first, and I were my whole,
My second might go where he pleased;
For you'd be caressed, and I should be blessed,
And the rest of my life would be eased.
(And the wheels of life's cart would be greased.)

Bride-groom.

My first is a circle, my second a cross,
If you meet with my whole look out for a toss.

Ox.

Never make my first and second in any cause which you are afraid to my whole.
A-vow.

My second worried my first, and proved himself my whole.
Bull-dog.

Fifty is my first, nothing is my second,
Five just makes my third, my fourth's a vowel reckoned;
Now, to fill my whole, put all my parts together,
I die if I get cold, but never mind cold weather.
L-O-V-E.

My first is a vehicle, my second is a preposition, and my whole is part of a ship.
Cab-in.

A word there is five syllables contains;
Take one away,—not one of them remains!
Mo-no-syllable.

My first is a vowel. My second may be a sound, or not a sound; it may be high or low, moral or wicked, loud or soft. My whole is the best sign of repentance.
A-tone.

CHARITY

On what condition would all men be charitable?
If they would see ten per cent. in it.

Where does charity begin?
At C (Sea).

When is charity like a top?
When it begins to hum.

Pray find a word that will produce a chair and table?
Char-i-table.

Why is cold weather productive of benevolence?
It makes people put their hands in their pockets.

CHEATING

When is a man hospitable and a cheat at the same time?
When he takes you in.

When are bunco men like leopards?
When spotted.

Why are sharpers like sparrows?
Because they feather their nests.

CHEESE

What most resembles the half of a cheese?
The other half.

CHEMISTS

Why is it impossible to have the last word with a chemist?
Because he always has a retort.

Why are chemists and alchemists both of the feminine gender?
Because one is an analyzer (Ann Eliza), the other a charlatan (Charlotte Ann).

Why would a tanner make a good chemist?
Because he understands ox (h)ides.

CHESS

Why is playing chess a better occupation than playing cards?
Because you play chess with two bishops and cards with four knaves.

What is the difference between a chess-player and an habitual toper?
One watches the pawn, the other pawns the watch.

What sort of men are most above board in their movements?
Chessmen.

CHICKENS

What kind of a hen lays the longest?
A dead hen.

Why are hens a very profitable investment?
Because for every grain they eat they give a peck.

Why is it that a hen always crosses over the wagon marks in the street?
Because it's too long to go round.

Of what is a person thinking when partaking of a chicken dinner?
Some foul (fowl) proceeding.

Why have chickens no fear of a future state?
Because they have their next world (necks twirled) in this.

If a little chicken could speak, and found an orange in its nest, what would it say?
Oh! look at the orange marma-lade!

Why is a hen immortal?
Because her son never sets.

How can you tell the age of a hen?
By the teeth (your own, of course).

Why is a chicken pie like a gunsmith's shop?
Because there's a fowl-in-pieces in it.

What is the difference between a hen with one wing, and a hen with two?
A difference of a pinion (opinion).

Why is a dead hen better than a live one?
Because she will lay wherever you put her.

What is the difference between a hen and an idle musician?
One lays at pleasure, the other plays at leisure.

What is most like a hen stealing?
A cock robbing (cock-robin).

Why does a hen cross the road?
To get on the other side.

Why does a hen never preach?
Because she belongs to the lay element.

Behind the barn at early morn
I heard a herald blow his horn.
His beard was flesh, his mouth was horn,
The like of him was never born.
Rooster. (Hatched, not born.)

Why is a rooster on a fence like a penny?
Because his head's on one side and tail's on the other.

Why does a hen lay an egg?
Because she can't lay a brick.

Why would a compliment from a chicken be an insult?
Because it would be fowl language.

Why does a hen fly over the fence?
Can't go around it.

When is a fowl's neck like a bell?
When it's rung for dinner.

How can you keep a rooster from crowing on Sunday?
Get him stuffed Saturday night.

Why should cocks be the smoothest birds known?
Because they always have a comb about them.

Which is the mother of the chick, the hen that laid the egg, or the one that hatched it?
The hen that laid the egg.

Why does a hen lay eggs only in the daytime?
Because she is a rooster at night.

Why is the first chicken of a brood like the mainmast of a ship?
Because it's a little ahead of the main hatch.

Why is a hen walking across the road like a conspiracy?
Because it is a foul proceeding.

What does a hen do when she stands on one foot?
Lifts up the other.

When is a chicken drunk?
When it is stewed.

When a chicken goes to roost, what weapon does it resemble?
A fowl in peace.

What is the difference between a chicken who can't hold its head up and seven days?
One is a weak one, and the other is one week.

When is a chicken a perfect glutton?
When it takes a peck at a time.

Why is a cock-fight the fairest kind of sport?
Because it is no fowl play.

CHILDREN

Why should children mind their P's and Q's?
To discover the difference between being polite and quiet and being pert and quarrelsome.

What is the difference between a cloud and a whipped child?
One pours with rain, the other roars with pain.

Why are young children like castles in the air?
Because their existence is only in fancy.

Why is a dirty child like flannel?
Because it shrinks from washing.

What class of people are wax and marble?
Children. Wax to receive an impression and marble to retain it

---

How can you make a thin child fat?
Throw him out the window and he'll come down plump.

When does a son not take after his father?
When his father leaves him nothing to take.

Why are bad children like old trunks?
They must be strapped.

Why is an undutiful son like one born deaf?
Because your voice is lost upon him.

Whom do children dislike the most?
The women who bore them.

Of what profession is every child?
A player.

Who are generally most sick of children?
The people who "bring them up."

CHIMNEYS

What is the best remedy for a smoky chimney?
Put the fire out.

Why must chimney-sweeping be a very agreeable business?
Because it suits (soots) every one who tries it.

What is the difference between a sweep and a man in mourning?
One is blacked with soot, and the other is suited with black.

Why do chimneys smoke?
Because they cannot chew.

CHINAMEN

What does the Chinaman say in answer to the question, "What are the wild waves saying?"
Washee; washee.

Why is a Chinaman never perplexed?
Because no matter where he finds himself he always has his cue.

CHOIRS

What is the difference between a choir master and a lady's dress?
The one trains a choir, the other acquires a train.

CHRONOMETERS

Why can you never buy a new chronometer?
Because it must always be a second-hand one.

CHURCHES

When is it dangerous to visit a church?
When there is a canon in the reading-desk, a big gun in the pulpit, and a bishop charges the congregation.

What is the difference between a Catholic and a Baptist?
One uses candles; the other dips.

Why should free seats at church be abolished?
They make people good for nothing.

Why are religious communities like bees?
Because they are in-sects.

Why is confessing to a father confessor like killing bees?
Because you un-buzz-'em (unbosom).

Why shouldn't you go to church if you have a cough?
Because you will be sure to disturb the "rest" of the congregation.

Why is a young man who seldom attends church, sitting in the pulpit of a leaky church in a rain storm, like one who constantly attends church?

Because he is sitting under the droppings of the sanctuary.

Why are the seats in the Catholic Church so comfortable?

Because they are so well Paddy-ed.

Why is an extremely religious Roman Catholic lady only a very virtuous goose?

Because she is so faithful to her proper gander (propaganda).

Why should the largest tree be near a church?

There should be no bigger tree (bigotry) there.

What is the difference between the Mormons' religion and their wives?

Their religion is singular, but their wives are plural.

What is the difference between a church bell, and a church organ?

One rings in the congregation, and by the other the congregation is played out.

What is the best way to turn people's heads?

Go to church late.

CITIES

Why do we generally dub a city her or she?

Because about a city there is so much bustle and because she has outskirts.

Why is a city being destroyed like another being built?

Because it is being razed (raised).

CLIMBING

Why is a man that has fallen off a tree, and is determined to go up again, like a man emigrating?

He is going to try another "climb" (clime).

CLOCKS

Why is a clock a pattern of modesty?

Because it covers its face with its hands and runs down its own works.

Why is a clock an emblem of labor?
Because it strikes.

When is a clock on the stairs dangerous?
When it runs down and strikes one.

What is a hot time?
A clock in an oven.

What is always behind time?
The back of a clock.

Why does a clock never strike 13?
It hasn't the face to do so.

When the clock strikes 13 what time is it?
Time to have the clock repaired.

Why is a clock the most persevering thing in creation?
Because it is never more inclined to go on with its business than when it is completely wound up.

What is the difference between a clock and a partnership?
When a clock is wound up it goes; when a firm is wound up it stops.

When is a clock cruel?
When it strikes its little one.

'Tis true I have both face and hands,
And move before your eye;
Yet when I go my body stands,
And when I stand I lie?
A clock.

I have hands, but no fingers; no bed, but a tick.
A clock.

What is it that stands aloft, and regulates our daily movements, yet feels no interest in our concerns; directs us when to go, and when to come; yet cares not whether we attend or not; still, thus indifferent to our fate, often strikes a heavy blow to urge us on, and we feel no resentment when the reproof is given?
A clock.

When may a man be said to possess a vegetable timepiece?
When he gets up at eight o' (a potato) clock.

What is the most regular beat?
The pendulum of a clock.

Why is a timepiece like a carriage?
Because it runs on wheels.

What is the most striking thing in the way of mantel ornaments?
A clock.

CLOTHES

Describe a suit of old clothes in two letters.
C D.

What kind of underclothes does a tramp wear?
K-nit.

Why would a shirt made out of a story-paper be an inconvenience?
It would have too many tales.

Why does a coat get larger when taken out of a carpet bag?
Because you find it in-creases.

When is a new dress older than an old one?
When it is more (moire) antique.

What is men's opinion of bloomers?
They are divided.

Which are the most seasonable clothes?
Pepper and salt.

When is an altered dress like a secret?
When it's let out.

How high ought a lady to wear her dress?
A little higher than two feet.

What does the evening wear?
The close of day.

Why is a lady in a cotton dress like anything published?
Because she appears in print.

How is the best way to make a coat last?
To make the trousers and vest first.

Why is an old coat like an iron kettle?
Because it represents hard-ware.

Why is a threadbare garment like a man who was up late at the ball?
Because both look worn out when they lose their nap.

Why are Cashmere shawls like deaf people?
Because you cannot make them here (hear).

When does a civilized man discard an essential article of attire?
When he "turns up" his trousers.

What part of a ragged garment resembles the Pope's title?
Its Holiness.

Why are worn-out clothes like children without parents?
Because they are left off'uns (orphans).

When are clothes like foxes?
When scented.

Why should buying trousers on credit be considered dishonorable?
Because they are breeches of trust.

When may a man's coat-pocket be empty and yet have something in it?
When it has a hole in it.

What is the difference between a summer dress in winter and an extracted tooth?
One is too thin, the other tooth out.

Why do we buy clothes?
Because we cannot get them for nothing.

What is the difference between a coat and a baby?
The one I wear, the other I was!

Why is it that every man's pants are too short?
Because his legs stick out two feet.

Why is a lady's belt like a garbage cart?
Because it goes around and gathers the waste.

What is the latest thing in gowns?
Night gowns.

Why is an apron like peas?
Because it is gathered.

What constitutes a genuine frontier costume?
The outskirts of civilization.

What part of an old lady's attire most resembles a solitary person?
Her mitts (hermits).

Why are women extravagant in clothes?
Because when they buy a new dress they wear it out on the first day.

What dress should a lady have to keep the rest of her wardrobe clean?
A lawn dress (laundress).

When are robes like water?
When flowing.

Which is at once the warmest and coldest garments?
A bare (bear) skin coat.

When is a fashionable man like a case in court?
When he has a new suit on.

CLOUDS

Why are clouds like coachmen?
Because they hold the rains (reins).

When are clouds in danger of being turned over?
When they let fall the rains (reins).

COACHMEN

Why is a coachman like a lover?
Because he always desires to be remembered by his fare (fair).

Why is it unjust to blame coachmen for cheating us?
Because we call them to take us in.

COALS

Why is coal the most contradictory article known to commerce?
Because when purchased instead of going to the buyer it goes to the cellar (seller).

Why is a coal charity the best of all charities?
Because it makes the receivers' grate full (grateful).

Why are coals like poor laboring men?
Because they feed the great (grate).

Why is anthracite coal like true love?
Because it burns with a steady flame.

COFFEE

When is coffee like the soil?
When it is "ground."

Why is gritty coffee like the Subway?
It may be considered underground.

Why should a poor man drink coffee?
Because he has no proper-ty (tea).

Why is coffee like an axe with a dull edge?
Because it must be ground before it is used.

What's the difference between coffee and a donkey?
One's mocha, the other's a moke!

When has a man a right to scold his coffee?
When he has more than sufficient grounds.

COFFINS

What is it, which the man that made it does not need, the man who buys it does not use for himself, and the person that uses it does not know it?
A coffin.

COLD CREAM

Why is cold cream like a good chaperon?
Because it keeps off the chaps.

COLDS

What is a parliamentary cold?
All ayes and noes (eyes and nose).

Why is a child with a cold in its head like a February blizzard?
It blows, it snows (it blows its nose).

Why is a man with a cold on his chest not a man?
Because he is a little horse (hoarse).

Why is a corpse like a man with a cold?
Because he is in a-coughing.

Why is a bad cold a great humiliation?
Because it brings the proudest man to his sneeze (his knees).

COLLEGES

Why is a college student like a thermometer?
Because he is graduated and marked by degrees.

Why is a Freshman like a telescope?
He is easily drawn out, seen through, and shut up.

Why are undergraduates like geese?
Because they often live upon the commons, they are crammed, they are plucked, and when plucked are regularly sold.

COLORS

What color are the winds and waves in a storm?
The winds blew (blue) and the waves rose.

COMBS

What is a good thing to part with?
A comb.

COMMITTEES

Why is a committee of inquiry like a cannon?
It makes a report.

COMPANIES

Why is a joint company not like a watch?
Because it does not go after it is wound up.

CONCEIT

Why is a fool in a high place like a man in a balloon.
Because every one appears little to him and he appears little to every one.

CONFUSION

When is a man like a snake?
When rattled.

CONGRESS

Why is a vote in Congress like a cold?
Because sometimes the ayes (eyes) have it, and sometimes the noes (nose).

Which member of Congress wears the largest hat?
The one who has the largest head.

When does the House of Representatives present one of the most ludicrous spectacles?
When its ayes (eyes) are on one side, and its noes (nose) on the other.

When is a member of Congress ferocious?
When he inserts his claws (clause) into the Bill of another member.

CONTEMPT

When is a subject beneath one's notice?
When it is under consideration.

CONVENTS

Why are the bars of a convent like a black smith's apron?
Because they keep the sparks off.

COOKING

When are cooks cruel?
When they beat the eggs and whip the cream.

Why is dough like the sun?
Because it is light when it rises.

Why ought meat to be only half cooked?
Because what's done cannot be helped.

Why does the cook make more noise than the bell?
Because one makes a din, and the other a dinner.

On what day should a cook make doughnuts?
Fry-day.

Why can't a cook swallow his apron?
Because it goes against his stomach.

What did the muffin say to the toasting fork?
You're too pointed.

What's the best day for making pancakes?
Fry-day.

When does a cook break the game laws?
When she poaches eggs.

Why cannot you make a venison pasty of buck venison?
Because the pasty must be made of dough (doe).

What pudding makes the best cricketer?
A good batter.

Why is a plum cake like the ocean?
Because it contains many currants.

What's the most difficult thing to be cooked for a Christmas dinner?
A tailor's goose.

What bird made the Yankee dish, bird's-nest pudding, and for what other bird was it made?
Why, it was the cook who (cuckoo) made it, and for the swallow, of course.

Why is a cook like a barber?
He dresses hare (hair).

What is the difference between a pastrycook and a billsticker?
One puffs up paste, the other pastes up puffs.

What made the tart tart?
Because she didn't want to let the baker bake her.

Why is the French cook at the Union Club like a man sitting on the top of a shot-tower?
Because they are both in a high cool an' airy (culinary) situation.

When is the soup most likely to run out of the sauce-pan?
When there's a leek (leak) in it.

Why are cooks of more advantage than editors.
Because they can make better puffs.

COQUETTES

Why is a street-car like the heart of a coquette?
Because there is always room for one more to be taken in.

CORN

Why does more corn grow in crooked rows than in straight ones?
There are more crooked rows.

When is corn like a question?
When you are popping it.

CORNS

What fruit does a sufferer from a corn resemble?
A toe-martyr (tomato).

What is the difference between a tight boot and an oak tree?
One makes acorns, the other makes corns ache.

On what toe does a corn never come?
The mistletoe.

Plant tight shoes and what will you raise?
Corns.

CORSETS

Why is a lady's corset like a watch-dog?
Because they are tied up all day and let out at night.

Why should young ladies never wear stays?
Because it is so horrid to see a girl "tight."

Why is a fashionable woman not wholly made by Providence?
"Providence shapes her ends," but corsets shape her middle.

Why does a girl lace herself so tight to go out to dinner?
Because she hears much stress laid on "Grace before meat!"

Why are women's corsets the greatest speculators in the bills of mortality?
Because they contract—to kill.

Why is a "girl of the period" like a careful housewife?
Because she makes her waist (waste) as little as she can.

Why are tight lacers economical?
Because they don't like a great waist.

COUNTERFEITING

Why is a gooseberry tart like a bad coin?
Because it's not currant (current).

COURTSHIP

Why is a young man visiting his sweetheart like the growth of a successful newspaper?
His visits commenced on a weekly, grew to be tri-weekly, and then became daily, with a Sunday supplement.

What ship contains more people than the "Great Eastern"?
Courtship.

What kind of sense does a girl long for in a disagreeable suitor?
Absence.

When a young man calls upon his sweetheart what should he carry with him?
Affection in his heart, perfection in his manners, and confections in his pockets.

What is the best thing to do to enjoy the happiness of courting?
To get a little gal-an'-try (gallantry).

What ship has two mates but no captain?
Courtship.

What ship is it in which no woman objects to embark?
Court-ship.

COWARDS

Why is a coward like a leaky barrel?
They both run.

CRANKS

What must a crank have to be of any use?
A balance wheel.

CREDULITY

Why are credulous people like musical instruments?
Because they are often played upon.

CRIMINALS

What nation does a criminal most dread?
Condem-nation.

CROWDS

Why is a man in front of a crowd well supported?
Because he has the press at his back.

Why should we avoid mingling with the multitude?
Because if you are hemmed in by a crowd you are likely to get a stitch in your side.

CROWS

Why is a crow?
Caws.

Why is a crow the bravest bird in the world?
Because it never shows the white feather.

Which are the most contented birds?
Rooks, because they never complain without caws.

What bird never flies without sufficient cause (caws)?
The crow.

CRYING

Why is a cry-baby's mouth like a tavern door?
It is always open.

Why is a tear shed in secret like a vessel of war?
Because it is a private tear.

CUNNING

Why is a cunning man like a shoemaker?
Because he'll pump you.

CURTAINS

In what condition is a beer-barrel when it resembles old-fashioned curtains?
When it's tap is dry (tapestry).

DANCING

What is the difference between a light in a cave and a dance in an inn?
One is a taper in a cavern, the other a caper in a tavern.

What word of three syllables specifies the time to dance?
At-ten-dance.

Why is the polka like bitter beer?
There are so many hops in it.

What dance do bakers most prefer?
A-bun-dance.

Why is a dancing master like a cook?
He cuts capers.

Why are some of our officers like a dancing master's toes?
Because they must be turned out.

Why is a fancy dancer like an old-fashioned country woman?
Because she reels and spins.

What is the most suitable dance to wind up a frolic?
A reel.

Who is it that always has a number of movements on foot for making money?
A dancing master.

Why is dancing like new milk?
Because it strengthens the calves.

DANGER

Why is traveling by the Subway dangerous?
Because then you are sure to be run over by carriages and automobiles.

DAYS

When the days breaks, what becomes of the pieces?
They go into mo(u)rning; or, they are ours (hours).

Why is there no whole day?
Because every one begins by breaking.

Why are the days long in summer and short in winter?
Heat expands things and cold contracts them.

Which is the strongest day in the week?
Sunday, because all the rest are week-days.

DEAFNESS

Why cannot a deaf man be legally convicted?
Because it is unlawful to condemn a man without a hearing.

Why are deaf people like India shawls?
Because you can't make them here (hear).

Why are young ladies born deaf sure to be more exemplary than young ladies not so afflicted?
Because they have never erred (heard) in their lives!

DEATH

Why is a tin can tied to a dog's tail like death?
Because it's bound to a cur (occur).

The king's fool offended him and was condemned to death; the king said, "You have been a good fool, so I will let you choose the manner of your death." What mode do you think he chose?
He chose to die of old age.

Why is death like a boy breaking your windows?
He puts an end to your pains (panes).

Why is it better to be burnt than to have your head cut off?
Because a hot steak is better than a cold chop.

What is that which the dead and the living do at the same time?
Go round with the world.

What is the difference between a cradle and the grave?
The one is for the first-born, the other for the last bourne.

What is it which "covers a multitude of sin(ner)s"?
The gravestone.

DEBTS

Why is it difficult for a little man to get credit?
Because the shorter a man is, the longer he is paying his debts.

Who is more to be admired than a promising young man?
A paying one.

When a fast young man says, "I think I had better marry and settle down," what would you advise instead?
Better stay single and settle up.

What things grow larger the more you contract them?
Debts.

Why is a man who runs in debt like a clock?
He goes on tick.

What is that debt for which you cannot be sued?
The debt of nature, or death.

What is better than to give credit to whom it is due?
Give the cash.

When is a man over head and ears in debt?
When he wears a wig that is not paid for.

When is a bill not a bill?
When it is due (dew).

What fruit is a lady like when settling a bill?
A pear (payer).

When may a man be said to be personally involved?
When he is wrapped up in himself.

DEJECTION

Why is a dejected man like one thrown from a precipice?
He is down-cast.

Why is the root of the tongue like a dejected man?
Because it's down in the mouth.

DENTISTS

What tree bears the most toothsome fruit?
Dentis-try.

Who is a painstaking fellow?
The dentist.

How do we know that a dentist is unhappy at his work?
Because he always looks down in the mouth.

When does a dentist do the most work?
When he extracts several acres (achers).

Why do dentists make good politicians?
Because they have a great pull.

Why is it absurd to call a dentist room the dental parlor?
Because it is the drawing room.

For what profession are the members of a college boat crew best fitted?
For dentistry, because they have a good pull.

Why do dentists make the best farmers?
They are used to pulling stumps.

What is the most important room in a dentist's house?
The drawing room.

What professional man generally shows his teeth to a customer?
A dentist.

DIRT

Why is a dirty man like flannel?
Because he shrinks from washing!

DISCONTENT

Why is the most discontented man the most easily satisfied?
Nothing satisfies him.

DISCOURSES

Why is an empty discourse like a solid one?
Because it is all sound.

DISEASES

Of what disease would a duke prefer to die?
Dropsy, because it is a swell disease.

Why should a man troubled with gout make his will?
Because he will then have his legatees (leg at ease).

Why did nurse object to take baby into papa's studio?
Because "them easels" (the measles) were about.

Why is gout like reciprocated love?
Because it's a joint affection.

What remedy would cure insomnia?
A gentle dose (doze), to be sure.

Why is rheumatism like a great eater?
Because it attacks the joints.

Why is a steel trap like the measles?
Because it is catching.

What is that a woman frequently gives her lovely countenance to, yet never takes kindly?
The small-pox.

Why is a rheumatic person like a glass window?
Because he is full of pains (panes).

DITCHES

What is larger when cut at both ends?
A ditch.

DIVORCE

Why is any divorced man like a man playing at ten pins?
Because he has to pay an alimony (an alley-money).

Why is the divorce court like certain newspapers?
Because it has a matrimonial co-respondents' (correspondence) section.

DOCTORS

Why are dead doctors and dead ducks alike?
Both are done quacking.

Why should a doctor never be seasick?
Because he is accustomed to see (sea) sickness.

Why is a doctor often better taken care of than his patients?
Because at night someone is sure to wrap (rap) him up.

Why are doctors always bad characters?
Because the worse people are the more they stay with them.

Why are doctors healthy men?
Because they have such strong physics (physiques).

Why does a lady not like a doctor to kiss her?
Because she does not like a doctor's bill thrust into her face.

Why are doctors like highwaymen?
Because their business with you is either your money or your life.

When is a doctor like a cross-tempered man?
When he is losing his patients.

When is a doctor most annoyed?
When he is out of patients.

How would you express in one word having encountered a doctor of medicine?
Met-a-physician.

Why is a doctor the meanest man on earth?
Because he treats you and then makes you pay for it.

Why are doctors not respectable?
Because they live by pill-age.

Who always enjoys poor health?
The doctor.

Why are two doctors living next door to each other like a double-barrel shot-gun?
Because what one misses the other is sure to kill.

Why should a doctor have his office near a burial ground?
As a matter of convenience to his patients.

DOGMAS

What is a dogma?
An opinion laid down with a snarl.

Ethel, why is Rover like a positive creed?
Because he's a dog, Ma (dogma)!

DOGS

Why does a dog turn around three times before lying down?
Because one good turn deserves another.

What is the difference between a dog's tail and a rich man?
One keeps a waggin(g) and the other keeps a carriage.

Why is a dog's tail like the heart of a tree?
Farthest from the bark.

Why is a sheet of foolscap paper like a lazy dog?
A sheet of foolscap is an ink-lined plane; an inclined plane is a slope up, and a slow pup is a lazy dog.

Why is a dog longer in the morning than in the evening?
Because he is let out in the morning and taken in in the evening.

Why is a lazy dog like a hill?
Because he is a slow pup (slope up).

When you examine a dog's lungs under the X-ray what do you find?
The seat of his pants.

When looking into a dog's mouth what do you sometimes find?
The seat of somebody's else pants.

Why does a dog wear more clothes in summer than in winter?
In winter he wears a coat; in summer he wears a coat and pants. (He pants).

How can you keep a dog from going mad in August?
Shoot him in July.

When is a dog's tail not a dog's tail?
When it is a wagon (waggin').

Why is a dog in an ice chest like a telegraph pole?
Because it is purp-in-de-cooler (perpendicular).

Why is a dog biting his own tail like a good financier?
Because he makes both ends meet.

When is a dog's tail like a toll-gate?
When it stops a waggin' (wagon).

When is a dog most like a human being?
When he is between a man and a boy.

Why is a little dog's tail like a new-born babe?
Because it never was seen before.

Why is a dog with a lame leg like a boy ciphering?
He puts down three and carries one.

Why does a fox-hound wag his tail?
Because he is stronger than his tail, otherwise his tail would wag him.

Why is a dainty lap-dog like a galloping hyena?
Because he is a fastidious (fast, hideous) beast.

What animal keeps the best time?
A watch dog.

What makes a pet dog wag his tail when he sees his master?
Because he's got one to wag.

What makes a coach dog spotted?
His spots.

When is a black dog not a black dog?
When he is a grey-hound.

Why is a dog like a tree?
Because they both produce a bark.

Why is your favorite puppy like a doll?
It is a pup-pet.

Why is a dog's tail a great novelty?
Because no one ever saw it before.

What did the tea-kettle say when tied to the little dog's tail?
"After you!"

When does a black-and-tan dog change color?
When it turns to bay.

When do dogs remind you of "A life on the Ocean Wave"?
When you see 'em-barking.

What is the difference between a dog losing his hair and a man painting a small building?
One sheds his coat and the other coats his shed.

In what bay will you find the most barks?
In the dog's bay.

Why does a dog's tail resemble happiness?
Because, run after it as he will, he cannot catch it.

DOMESTIC TROUBLES

Why is a man who beats his wife like a thorough-bred horse?
Because he is a perfect brute.

What is the difference between a pitcher of water and a man throwing his wife in the river?
One is water in the pitcher, and the other is pitch her in the water.

Why is a man upstairs beating his wife an honorable man?
Because he is above doing a mean action.

Why are the complaints of married people like the noise of the waves on the shore?

Because they are the murmurs of the tied (tide).

If a man married a shrew, what are we to suppose?

That he is shrewd.

What is a well-matched pair?

A horsey man and a naggy wife.

When do husband and wife change places?

When she comes down and blows him up.

Why is a rifleman firing wide from his target like a man who blacks his wife's eye?

Because one misses his mark, and the other marks his missus.

Why does a woman who gives her husband "a piece of her mind" usually take as much as she gives?

Because she generally manages to take away the peace of his.

Why are some married men like candles?

Because they occasionally go out at night when they oughtn't to.

What kind of medicine does a man take for a scolding wife?

He takes an elixir (he takes and he licks her).

What beats a good wife?

A bad husband.

What is the difference between a fish and the husband of a vixen?

One lives in cold water and the other in hot.

What woman would be the most likely to give her husband a blowing up if he came home late?

Dinah might.

Why are married men like steamboats?

Because they are sometimes blown up.

Why *does* a man permit himself to be henpecked?

Because he's chicken-hearted!

How many people does a termagant of a wife make herself and *worser* half amount to?

Ten: herself, 1; husband, 0—total, 10.

Why is a married man like a fire?
Because he provokes his wife by going out at night.

When does a married lady appeal to twelve men?
When she has been deserted by one.

Why is a man with a scolding wife like a florist?
He has a hot house.

DONKEYS

When is donkey spelled with one letter?
When it's U.

Why should a bee and a donkey form a partnership?
Because one gets all the honey and the other gets all the wax (whacks).

What key is the hardest to turn?
A don-key.

Why does a donkey prefer thistles to oats?
Because he's an ass.

What is the difference between a donkey and a postage stamp?
One you lick with a stick; the other you stick with a lick.

When does a donkey weigh the least?
When he is within a pound.

If you were to ride upon a donkey, what fruit would you resemble?
A pear (a pair).

If a man gets up on a donkey where should he get down?
From a swan's breast.

DOORBELLS

What asks no questions but requires many answers?
A doorbell.

DOORS

When is a door not a door?
When it is a-jar.

When is a door not a door?
When it's an egress (a negress).

How do you swallow a door?
Bolt it.

Why is a street-door like a beer-barrel?
Because it is often tapped.

DRINKING

Why is a drunkard's nose like a lighthouse?
It warns us of the little water which passes beneath.

How does a tipsy man generally look?
Dizzy-pated (dissipated).

For what class of men is the road never wide enough?
Drunkard.

When is a toper's nose not a nose?
When it is a little reddish.

Why is a drunkard's nose red?
Red is the signal of danger.

Why are there three objections to taking a glass of brandy?
Because there are three scruples to a dram.

Why should a drunkard wear a plaid vest?
To keep a check on his stomach.

Why do teetotalers run such a slight risk of drowning?
Because they are so accustomed to keep their noses above water.

What is the difference between a wealthy toper and a skillful miner?
One turns his gold into quarts, the other turns his quartz into gold.

Why is a disreputable alehouse like two of the chief performers in an orchestra?
Because it is a base and vile inn (bass and violin).

Why is your nose like the Brooklyn Bridge, Sambo?
Because there's so many schooners go under it.

What key is a poisonous one?
Whiskey.

What is the difference between a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of wine?
One makes a nosegay and the other makes a "gay nose."

What may be called the drunkard's age?
Wreck-age.

Why can the pall-bearers at a young lady's funeral never be dry?
Because they have a gall on a bier between them.

When is a wine-glass like an accomplished prediction?
When it is full filled.

Why is a drunkard hesitating to sign the pledge like a skeptical Hindoo?
Because he is in doubt whether to give up his jug or not (Juggernaut).

Why is intoxication like a slop bowl?
'Cos it am de-basin' (debasing)!

What is the difference between a drunken man and the moon?
The moon is full once a month, and a drunken man is full every night.

What man is the most likely to get tipsy?
The man whose thoughts run in a jug-ular vein.

DROWNING

What is an old lady in the middle of a river like?
Like to be drowned.

What is a man like who is in the middle of the Hudson River and can't swim?
Like to be drowned.

DUCKS

Why does a duck go into the water?
For diver's reasons.

Why does she come out?
For sun-dry reasons.

What is another reason for a duck going into the water?
To liquidate her bill.

Again, why does she come out?
To make a run on the bank.

I saw a duck swimming in the pond and a dog sitting on its tail. How was that?
The dog sat on his own tail on the shore.

What is the difference between a duck with one wing and one with two?
Merely a difference of a pinion (opinion).

Where is the cheapest place to buy poultry?
At the State Bath House, where you can get a duck for a dime.

What would be a good epitaph on a duckling just dead?
Peas (peace) to its remains!

DUDES

What is the difference between a Dutch dude and a piece of stovepipe?
One is a silly Hollander, and the other is a hollow cylinder.

If you saw a dude riding on a donkey, what fruit would you be reminded of?
A pear (pair).

Why are dudes no longer imported into this country from England?
Because a Yankee dude 'll do (Yankee doodle doo).

Why is a dude's hat like swearing?
Because it is something to avoid.

What is the difference between a rooster, Uncle Sam and an old maid?
The rooster says, "Cock-a-doodle-do"; Uncle Sam says, "Yankee doodle do," and the old maid says, "Any dude 'll do."

DUELS

Why are all duels very short affairs?
Because it only requires two seconds to arrange them.

What did the pistol-ball say to the wounded duellist?
"I hope I give satisfaction."

DUMBNESS

Why is anything that is unsuitable like a dumb person?
Because it won't answer.

DUMB-WAITERS

Why was the dumb-waiter returned?
Because it didn't answer.

DUST

What is that which flies high, flies low, has no feet, and yet wears shoes?
Dust.

DUTY

Where lies the path of duty?
Through the Custom House.

EARS

What part of your ear would be the most essential for a martial band?
The drum.

EARTH

What is the difference between the earth and the sea?
One is dirty, the other tidy.

EATING

Why does a tall man eat less than a short one?
He makes a little go a long ways.

If you were invited out to dine, and found nothing on the table but a beet, what would you say?
That beats (beet's) all.

Why should a greedy man wear a plaid vest?
To keep a check on his stomach.

When a man complains of his coffee being cold, what does his wife do?
She makes it hot for him.

Which has the harder life of it—tea or coffee?
Tea, because coffee settles down, while tea is compelled to draw.

When may a person be said to breakfast before he gets up?
When he takes a roll and a turnover in bed.

What is the difference between a hungry man and a glutton?
One longs to eat and the other eats too long.

Why are hot rolls like caterpillars?
Because they make the butterfly.

Which are the oldest knives and forks?
Fingers and teeth.

How do you keep food on an empty stomach?
Bolt it down.

When may bread be said to be alive?
When it has a little Indian in it.

What relation is a loaf of bread to an engine?
Mother. (Necessity is the mother of invention.)

How many eggs can a man eat on an empty stomach?
None; when he begins to eat his stomach is no longer empty.

How many clams can you eat on an empty stomach?
One.

Why is beef suitable for a Christmas dinner?
Meet for rejoicing.

Why has a great gymnast very wonderful digestion?
Because he lives on ropes and poles and thrives.

What fish are an emblem of silence?
Oysters.

What food represents the sad ending of a Bible character?
Salt.

What food represents a Fourth of July accompaniment?
Crackers.

What seasoning is made sharp by its mother?
Vinegar.

What food represents how the goat got square with the girl?
Butter.

What foods are emblems of Chicago and Boston?
Pork and beans.

What food is an emblem of stupidity?
Goose.

What food is a token of peace?
Olives.

What food is an unknown quantity?
Hash.

What food is cause for a display of grief?
Onions.

What food is indebted to grass?
Milk.

What food represents a letter and the speaking of it?
B-utter.

What is nature's contribution to the table?
Water.

What table article are chips from the old block?
Tooth-picks.

What table article is the fountain of youth (no fable)?
Milk.

What food represents the gambler's tools?
Sugar dice.

What dessert represents visible pain?
C-ake.

What food represents the nickname for Florida natives?
Crackers.

What is the leap-year cereal?
Pop-corn.

What food is pressed fluid?
Cheese.

What food are the destroyers of the race?
Apples.

What is the food for Choctaws?
Indian pudding.

What beverage represents the beginning of time?
Tea.

What food represents what women need (knead) most?
Bread.

What food suggests green tarts?
Pickles.

What food represents the father of all dark(ey)ness?
Ham.

What are the brownies of Boston?
Beans.

What dessert represents a popular maid at dinner?
Charlotte Russe.

What food is moon material?
Cheese.

What edibles represent Cain's offering?
Fruit.

What food represents jewels?
Gems.

What article of diet just escaped being flirts?
Croquettes.

What food is scorned by Jews?
Ham.

What meat suggests under the Rhine?
Pork.

What food is lovers' currency?
Kisses.

What beverage recalls the earliest overthrow of the United States?
Tea.

What does the blizzard contribute to make food more palatable?
Ice.

What food is good for spinning wheels?
Rolls.

What food is Dinah's favorite epithet?
Honey.

What dessert represents what Susan said when she saw the mouse?
Ice Cream.

What food is labor's stronghold?
Beef.

What food represents a carriage and a period of time?
Cabb-age.

What food represents dirt and goblins?
Sand-wiches.

What food represents impertinence?
Sauce.

What food is a choice mixture?
Salad.

What is the confection for leisure hours?
Gum.

What food represents what the patient has and what the doctor gets?
Cof-fee.

What is that which every one wishes, and yet wants to get rid of as soon as it is obtained?
A good appetite.

Why is a public dinner like a fir-tree?
Because you may get a deal board (bored) from it.

The ova of what fish do we frequently have for breakfast?
The ova which is ham an' eggs (is salmon eggs).

Why is it that you cannot starve in the desert?
Because of the sand-which-is there, to say nothing of the Pyramids of Ch(e)ops!

But how did the sandwiches get there?
Because Ham was sent there, and his followers mustard (mustered) and bre(a)d!

Why is a hungry man willing to be a martyr?
Because he is ready to go to the steak.

What eater is it that rises at the counter of an eating house without putting down the fare?
The thermom-eater.

What is the worst man of all?
He who eats his marmalade on toast (mama laid on toast).

What kind of a swell luncheon would hardly be considered a grand affair?
A luncheon of dried apples and warm water, which is really a swell affair.

Why is a buckwheat-cake like a caterpillar?
Because it makes the butter-fly.

What is the best food for dyspeptic people?
Oysters; because they die-just (digest) before they are eaten.

What is the most indigestible supper you can take?
Bolt the door and tuck in the sheets.

Which is the merriest sauce?
Caper sauce.

When does a man sit down to a melancholy dessert?
When he sits down to wine and to pine.

When is an alderman like a ghost?
When he's a-gobblin' (goblin).

What is the greatest feat, in the eating way, ever known?
That recorded of a man who commenced by bolting a door, after which he threw up a window, and then sat down and swallowed a whole story.

What becomes of the chocolate cake when your only son eats it?
It vanishes into the empty heir (air).

What is the best key to a good dinner?
Turkey.

What is the difference between a last will and testament and a man who has eaten as much as he can?
One is signed and dated, and the other is dined and sated.

What is the best description of "rapid consumption"?
Bolting one's food.

Which is the left side of a plum pudding?
The part that is not eaten.

Can you think of a rhyme which states that a man who serves himself at a cafeteria is neither a traitor to his country nor a member of the waiters' union?
Every man who carries a tray is not a traitor, nor is he necessarily a waiter.

EAVES-DROPPERS

What is an eaves-dropper?
The icicle.

ECHOES

What would give a blind man the greatest delight?
Light.

What is necessary to a farmer to assist him?
System.

What must be done to conduct a newspaper right?
Write.

What is the best advice to give a justice of the peace?
Peace.

Who is the greatest terrifier?
Fire.

Who commit the greatest abominations?
Nations.

What made the tart tart?
Because she didn't want the baker to bake her.

ECLIPSES

Why is an eclipse like a man whipping his boy?
Because it's a hiding of the sun (son).

EDITORS

Who has most need to pray to be delivered from temptation?
An editor, for he is beset by the "devil."

Why should a perfumer be a good editor?
Because he is accustomed to make elegant extracts.

EGGS

Why is an egg dealer sure to succeed?
Because he shows a good egg-sample from egg-sellent motives.

Why is an egg too lightly boiled like one boiled too much?
Because it is hardly done.

When walking through a field of wheat
I pick'd up something good to eat,
'Twas neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor bone;
I kept it till it ran alone.
An egg.

How do eggs show their anger on being called heggs?
By becoming eggs-asperated.

Why is an egg like a colt?
Because it isn't fit for use until it's broken.

What female name would an egg object to be called?
Addle-laid (Adelaide).

EGOTISM

What kind of men are very apt to worship their maker?
Self-made ones.

ELEVATORS

What is the difference between an elevator and the man who runs it?
One is lowered to take passengers up, and the other is highered (hired) to do it.

When is an elevator not an elevator?
When it is going down.

Why is an elevator man like an aëronaut?
Because his life is all ups and downs.

EMPLOYERS

What man has a thousand hands?
The man who employs a thousand men.

ENERGY

What are the three most forcible letters in the alphabet?
N. R. G.

ENGINES

What kind of ears does an engine have?
Engineers.

What part of a locomotive requires the most attention?
The "tender" part.

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a schoolmaster?
One minds the train, the other trains the mind.

What is the difference between a locomotive and a hound?
One is trained to run and the other runs a train.

How do locomotives hear?
Through their engineers.

What is the great motive for traveling?
The loco-motive.

Why do railway men always speak of a locomotive as "she"?
Because it suggests "tender" thoughts and draws men after it.

What was the cause of the railroad accident the other day?
The cow-catcher had a calf.

Why cannot a railroad engine sit down?
Because it has a tender behind.

ENGLISH

Why is the Bank of England during a shower like a civic feast?
Because it is a bank wet (banquet).

Why should a pious person never call a patten a clog?
Because, instead of its being a "hindrance," it "elevates the soul" (sole).

When does a man shave himself with silver?
When he cuts off his heir with a shilling.

Why, in case of a revolution, would the people be the greatest losers?
Because they would each lose a sovereign, and the King only a crown.

Why is my servant, when she travels to Kew by a public conveyance, likely to prove a burthen to her friends?
Because she is Ann in Kew bus (incubus).

Why are clerks like the telegrams of the daily press?
Because they are Reuter's.

Which is the hardest tree in Hyde Park?
The Marble Arch (the marble larch).

What sea reminds one of a pudding?
Battersea.

What part of a clock reminds you of Christmas Eve?
The weights (waits).

What piece of coin is double its value by deducting its half?
A half-penny.

Why did the people hail King Edward while going through the streets of London?

Because he was reigning and they thought they might hail.

Why is a four-pound note better than a five-pound sovereign piece?

Because it is easily doubled up.

When is a farmer's wife like the statue of the Duke of Wellington at the Royal Exchange?

When she is looking up the poultry.

Why does "the British Matron" prefer old songs?

Because she greatly objects to new-ditties.

Why are the makers of the Armstrong gun the most dishonest persons in His Majesty's service?

Because they rifle all the guns, forge all the materials, and steel all the gun breeches.

Why may it be said that Dutchmen come into the world ready clothed?

Because they are born in Holland.

Why is an ass the most unfortunate creditor?

Because he gets nothing in the pound.

Why are Dover cliffs like the letter D?

They are next the sea (C).

Why is a good wife always worth five shillings?

Because she is a crown to her husband.

When is a penniless state of things the cause of rejoicing in a poor man's family?

When bread is a penny less per loaf.

If Britannia were deformed, what public institution would she remind you of?

The National Gal-awry (Gallery).

Why are Government clerks like the fountains in Trafalgar Square?

Because they play from ten to four.

Where do starlings go in cherry-time?

They go to Peckham (peck 'em).

Why is the prize-ring like a book of botanical preparations?
Because you see in it specimens of the British floorer (Flora).

What is the difference between last week's Punch and the brewings of Guinness and Allsopp?
One is out and stale, the others stout and ale.

What English king had a naturally great aversion to washerwomen?
John, because of his great losses in the Wash!

Why is a Member of Parliament like a shrimp?
Because he has M. P. at the end of his name.

What river is ever without a beginning and ending?
S-ever-n!

How is it that the Queen is a poor gentlewoman?
She possesses only one crown.

Why is a loyal gentleman like a miser?
He knows the value of his sovereign.

Why is the steeple of St. Paul's church like Ireland?
Because there is a bell fast (Belfast) in it.

Why do we jealously watch Russia's advance towards Afghanistan?
Because it would be a nice thing to catch Her-at.

What street in London puts you in mind of a tooth which has pained you for a long time?
Long Acre.

Why should yellow peas be sent to Hammersmith?
Because that is the way to Turnham Green.

When does a shilling act like a razor?
When a man cuts off his heirs (hairs) with one.

Why is the port of Plymouth like a very wonderful phenomenon in accoustics?
Because it includes a part of the sea called the Sound; and that is the only sound that you can see.

Why did Lady Wellesley do a very unlady-like action when she married the late Lord Raglan?
Because she turned a "Somerset."

Why are Whigs and wigs alike?
Because they both profess an attachment to the crown.

What part of London is like a lame man?
Cripplegate (cripple-gait).

Why are railways like laundresses?
Because they have ironed all England and have occasionally done a little mangling.

Why is Great Britain like Palestine?
Because it's the Holy Land (whole island).

What part of London is in France?
The letter n.

How do you know that the Queen Victoria approves of the penny postage?
Because she gives her countenance to it.

If I buy four books for a penny and give one of them away, why am I like a telescope?
Because I make a far-thing present.

Why is the history of England like a wet season?
Because it is full of reigns (rains).

ENGRAVERS

Why is an engraver fearless of drowning?
Because he is accustomed to die sinking.

ENVELOPES

What does an envelope say when it is licked?
Just shuts up and says nothing about it.

ENVY

A feeling all persons detest,
Altho' 'tis by every one felt,
By two letters fully express'd,
By twice two invariably spelt.
Envy (N V).

EPIGRAMS

Why is a bad epigram like a useless pencil?
Because it has no point.

EQUALITY

What is it that a man often sees, Washington seldom saw, and God Almighty never saw?
His equal.

ETERNITY

Why is eternity like a circle?
It has neither beginning nor end.

Why is a wedding ring like eternity?
Because it has neither beginning nor end.

What is Eternity?
A day without yesterday or to-morrow.

I am forever, and yet was never.
Eternity.

EYES

Why is an eye like an old-fashioned schoolmaster?
Because it always has a pupil under the lash.

Why is your eye like a boy being whipped?
It is under the lash.

Why are your eyes like friends separated by distant climes?
They correspond, but never meet.

There's a word composed of three letters alone,
Which reads backwards and forwards the same;
It expresses the sentiments warm from the heart,
And to beauty lays principal claim.
Eye.

Why is an eyelid like the wadding to a gun?
Because it covers the ball.

Why is a pretty girl's pleased-merry-bright-laughing-eye no better than an eye destroyed?
Because it's an-eye-elated.

Why are your eyes like post-horses?
Because they are continually under the lashes.

If the eyes and nose were to run a race which would win?
The eyes; for the nose would be blown while the eyes would run till they dropped.

Why is a cock-eye like a note of interrogation?
Because it is a queer eye.

When are eyes not eyes?
When the wind makes them water.

FACTS

When is a fact like a universal patent?
When it is patent to "all."

FAINTING

Why should a fainting woman have more than one doctor called?
Because if she is not brought to (two) she will die.

How is it you can never tell a lady's real hysterics from her sham ones.
Because, in either case, it's a feint (faint).

When a lady faints, what figure will restore her?
You must bring her 2.

FALLING

When a boy falls, what does he fall against?
Against his will.

If by chance a man falls
From the top of St. Paul's,
What does he fall against?
Against his inclination.

If a man attempts to jump a ditch and falls, why is he likely to miss the beauties of summer?

Because the Fall follows right after the Spring, unless he makes a Summer-set between them.

FALSE LOGIC

Why is an ex-pugilist like a bee-hive?

An ex-pugilist is an ex-pounder; an ex-pounder is a commentator; a common tater is an Irish tater; an Irish tater is a speck tater; a spectator is a beholder, and a bee-holder is a bee-hive.

Prove that the winds are blind.

The wind is a zephyr, a zephyr is a yarn, a yarn is a story, a story is a tale, a tail is an attachment, an attachment is love, and love is blind; therefore, the winds are blind.

Which is better, getting the girl of your choice or a shoulder of mutton?

A shoulder of mutton; as nothing earthly can be better than getting her you love, and a shoulder of mutton is much better than nothing.

What is the difference between a bee-hive and a bad potato?

None. One is a bee-holder; a bee-holder is a speck'd 'tatur, and a speck'd 'tatur is a bad potato.

What relation is a loaf of bread to a locomotive?

The mother—bread being a necessity, a locomotive being an invention, and "Necessity is the mother of invention."

FARMERS

When does a farmer perform a miracle?

When he turns his horse to grass, and also when he turns his cow to pasture.

What disease do reapers often get on hot days?

A dropsical (drop sickle) affection.

When does a farmer act with cruelty to his corn?

When he pulls its ears.

Why is it dangerous for farmers to plant peas during war?

For fear the enemy will come along and shell them.

Which are the safest banks, the best stock and the most profitable shares?

The farmer's earth banks; live stock and plowshares, for they are the source of all wealth.

What goes most against a farmer's grain?

His reaper.

What had better be done when there is a great rent on a farm?

It had better be sewn (sown).

Why is a rich farmer like a man with bad teeth?

Because he has a good many achers.

Why is an old man's farm in Texas like the focus of a sun-glass?

Because it's a place where the sons raise meat (sun's rays meet).

What is the difference between a farmer and a seamstress?

One gathers what he sows, the other sews what she gathers.

When is a farmer like a dentist?

When he is pulling out stumps.

FASHIONS

What is a bachelor's opinion of woman's rights?

That it is she, and not her grievances, which needs to be re-dressed.

What is the latest thing in dresses?

Night-dresses.

What is the proper length for a young lady to wear her dress?

A little above two feet (her two feet).

Why is a fashionable woman like a thrifty housekeeper?

Because she makes a great "bustle" about a little "waist" (waste).

On what condition would women wear men's clothes?

If it were the fashion.

What is the difference between a new sponge and a fashionable man?

If you well wet one it makes it swell, but if you well wet the other it takes all the swell out of him.

Why is the latest thing in a fashionable gown like the South African bushman's club?

Because it's "perfectly stunning."

Why is fashion like a blank cartridge?
Because it's all powder and puff.

Why is turkey a fashionable bird?
Because he always appears well dressed.

Lead up to this by talking about the colors of bonnets and dresses, then ask, But what is most likely, do you think, to become a fair-haired woman?
A fair-haired little girl!

When is a woman dressed like an Indian war chief in all his feathers?
When she is dressed to kill.

FAT PEOPLE

Why are stout men usually sad?
Because they are men of sighs (size).

Why does a fat man when squeezed compliment the ladies?
Because the pressure makes him flatter.

How is the best way to get fat?
Go to the butcher shop.

FAULT-FINDING

What is that which is often found where it is not?
Fault.

Why is a man for whom nothing is good enough like a hyena galloping?
Because he's a fast-hideous (fastidious) beast!

FEAR

Why is a man whose "heart is in his mouth" through fright, like a cabbage?
Because his heart's in his head.

When does even the bravest heart turn to stone?
When it becomes a little bolder (boulder).

Why is a nervous lady like a policeman?
Because her mind is filled with apprehensions.

FEATURES

What have noses but smell not?
Teapots.

What have eyes and see not?
Potatoes.

What have ears but hear not?
Cornstalks.

What have tongues but talk not?
Wagons.

What have mouths but eat not?
Rivers.

What have hands but work not?
Clocks.

What have feet and walk not?
Stoves.

Why is a man's mouth, when very large, like an annual lease?
Because it extends from ear to ear (year to year).

Part of a foot with judgment transpose,
And the answer you'll find just under your nose.
Inch—chin.

FEET

Why are feet like olden tales?
Because they are leg-ends (legends).

FENCES

What is the difference between one yard and two yards?
A fence.

I came to a field and couldn't get through it;
So I went to a school and learned how to do it.
Fence.

FIELDS

When is a straight field not a straight field?
When it is a rye (wry) field.

FIGURES

Why is the figure 9 like a peacock?
Because without a tail it is nothing.

What increases its value one-half when turned upside down?
Figure 6.

Why is an account book like a statuary shop?
It is full of figures.

FIRE

What is it that will run up a hill faster than it will run down?
Fire.

If a church should take fire, what part could not be saved?
The organ, because the engine could not play upon it.

Why is a steam engine at a fire an anomaly?
Because it works and plays at the same time.

What magazine would be likely to give the best report of a fire?
A powder magazine.

What is the worst thing to catch afire?
Nothing.

Ever eating, ever cloying,
Never finding full repast,
All devouring, all destroying,
Till it eats the world at last?
Fire.

What is the best thing out?
A conflagration.

Why do women like the heat of an open grate?
Because it is a great beauti-fier.

How does a stove feel when full of coal?
Grateful.

What is the difference between a fireman and a bar-room bouncer?
One soaks the fires and the other fires the soaks.

FIRE-FLIES

How can a place be lighted by a thousand fires, and they afford no warmth, neither can we put them out?
When lighted by fire-flies.

FIREWORKS

Why is a cracker like death?
Because it is a debt o' natur' (detonator).

FISH

Why should a fisherman be wealthy?
Because his business is all net profit.

Why can you never expect a fisherman to be generous?
Because his business makes him sell-fish.

What part of a fish weighs the most?
The scales.

When is a fish like a bird?
When it takes a fly.

If you were fishing in Boston harbor and a hostile gunboat should appear, what would be the best thing to do?
Pull up your line and sink-her.

Why will an insolent fishmonger get more business than a civil one?
Because when he sells fish, he gives sauce with it.

How do little fish have a proper idea of business?
Not being able to do better, they start on a small scale.

Why is a herring like a graveyard?
Because it is full of bones.

What is the best way to keep fish from smelling?
Cut off their noses.

When are you nearly related to a fish?
When your grandmother is a good old soul (sole).

Why are smelt fishermen great for corresponding?
Because they are always dropping a line.

What part of a fish is like the end of a book?
The fin-is.

When is a fish out of its element?
When it rises and takes a fly.

Why is a red herring like an overcoat?
Because it keeps you dry.

What is the difference between a fisherman and a lazy schoolboy?
One baits his hook, the other hates his book.

What is the difference between an oyster and a lobster?
We get pearls out of an oyster and it is possible to get a diamond necklace out of a lobster.

A man bought two fishes, but on taking them home found he had three; how was that?
He had two—and one smelt.

Why can a fish never be in the dark?
Because of his paraffins (pair o' fins).

Why may fishmongers be called materialists?
Because their soles are always beneath their notice.

Why are fish well educated?
They have a taste for going in schools.

Why is it that a fisherman cannot tell his gross profits?
Because they are always net.

On a frosty day, what are the best fishes to fasten together?
Skates, soles, an' (h)eels.

Why are fish in a thriving state like fish made to imitate them?
Because they are hearty-fish-all (artificial).

Why are fishermen and shepherds like beggars?
Because they live by hook or by crook.

When are oysters like a fretful husband?
When found in a stew.

Why is a loaf which has fallen overboard like a lobster?
Because it is "bred" (bread) in the sea.

What would a dolphin in a sentry-box look like?
A fish out of water.

What fish is most valued by a loving wife?
Her-ring.

Why do fishermen possess extraordinary medical powers?
Because they cure dead fish.

Why is the oyster the wisest of animals?
He keeps his mouth shut.

FLATTERY

What makes every one sick except those who swallow it?
Flattery.

FLEAS

Why is beer like a flea?
Because hops is the principal thing about both.

What low-born, ill-bred fellow has noble blood in him?
A flea that bites Lords and Ladies.

He loved her. She hated him, but, woman-like, she "would" have him, and she was the death of him. Who was he?
A flea.

Why is a flea like a long winter?
It makes a backward spring.

What is the difference between a brewer and a flea?
The one buys hops, the other takes them.

Legs I have, but seldom walk;
I backbite all, yet never talk.
A flea.

Which is the greatest back-biter?
A flea.

FLIES

When did the fly fly?
When the spider spider (spied her).

Why can't flies see in winter?
Because they leave their specs behind them in summer.

Why is the fly the best one among the grocers' customers?
Because, when he comes for sugar, he settles on the spot.

Why is a fly taller than most men?
Because he stands over six feet without shoes or stockings.

What is the most popular paper at a summer resort?
Flypaper.

FLIRTING

With whom do the mermaids flirt?
The swells of the ocean.

Why is it difficult to flirt on the P. O. steamers?
Because all the mails (males) are tied up in bags.

Why is flirtation like plate powder?
Because it brightens up "spoons."

If 32 is the freezing point what is the squeezing point?
Two in the shade!

What is the difference between a butcher and a flirt?
One kills to dress, and the other dresses to kill.

Why is a bullet like a tender glance?
Because it pierces hearts.

Why is a flirt like an India-rubber ball?
Because she's empty, yet full of bounce.

Why is lip-salve like a duenna?
Because it's meant to keep the chaps off!

FLOWERS

What is the difference between a rhododendron and a cold apple-dumpling?

The one is a rhododendron and the other is a cold apple-dumpling. (You surely wouldn't wish for a greater difference than that.)

What flower would remind you of a lion that took a great deal of care about his personal appearance?

Dandelion (Dandy lion).

What is it that is queer about flowers?

They shoot before they have pistils.

What flower most resembles a bull's mouth?

A cowslip (cow's lip).

What two flowers should decorate a menagerie?

A dandelion and a tiger-lily.

What paradox may often be found in a flower garden?

A white pink.

Why is a water-lily like a whale?

Because it comes to the surface to blow.

What blossom, deprived of one of its letters, becomes what all young misses desire to possess?

A (c)lover.

What blossom, deprived of one of its letters, is oftenest sent by lovers?

(P)ink.

Why is a note of hand like a rose-bud?

Because it is matured by falling due (dew).

What pickle reminds you of gathering a flower?

Pick-a-lily.

FOG

What is the difference between fog and a falling star?

One is a mist on earth, the other is missed in heaven.

FOLLY

What is the height of folly?
Spending your last shilling on a purse.

FOOD

Why is a caterpillar like hot cakes?
Because it is the grub that will make the butter-fly.

Why is gooseberry jam like counterfeit money?
Because it is not currant (current).

FOOLS

Would you rather be a bigger fool than you seem, or rather seem to be a bigger fool than you are?
Whichever horn of this dilemma a person chooses when you ask the question you reply: "That would be impossible."

Why is a fool in a high station like a man in a balloon?
Because everybody appears little to him, and he appears little to everybody.

FOREIGNERS

How many foreigners make a man uncivil?
Forty Poles make one rude (rood).

FORESIGHT

What man has his eyes in the back of his head?
The man whose hind sight is better than his foresight.

FORGERY

When is a bank note like iron?
When it is forged.

FORKS

What did the cheese say to the toasting fork?
You are too pointed.

FORMS

What is the difference between forms and ceremonies?
We sit upon one and stand on the other.

FOUNTAINS

What is that which works when it plays and plays when it works?
A fountain.

FOURTH OF JULY

Why is the fourth of July like an oyster stew?
Because we enjoy it best with crackers.

FRENCH

Why need France have no fear of an inundation?
Because "the water" there is always "l'eau" (low).

What French word contains all the English vowels and but one consonant?
Oiseau.

Je ne suis pas ce que je suis; car si j'étais ce que je suis, je ne serais pas ce que je suis, cependant je suis; devinez qui je suis?
Un domestique qui suit sa maîtresse.

Un felon peut-il prendu pour devise,—"Honneur à Dieu"?
Non, car il faut qu'il dise—"Adieu, honneur!"

Quel est le peuple le moins gai de l'univers?
Le peuple Persan, parce qu'il est gouverné par un schah (chat), et que le schah fait fuir les souris.

Why is the mark known as cedilla in the French alphabet like a pearl?
Because it is found at the bottom of the c (sea).

If a Frenchman were to fall into a tub of tallow, in what word would he express his situation?
In-de-fat-i-gabble (indefatigable).

What is the difference between a wound from an arrow in England, and a wound from an arrow in France?
In England the flesh is entered, but in France it is the flêche that enters.

What scent would a lady prefer who was going to marry a gentleman named Richard?

Eau de Cologne (oh, Dick alone).

Pourquoi les amateurs du beau sexe vont-ils souvent a l'hippodrome?

Afin d'être en cirque assis (Circassie).

Why is a festive Israelite like a witticism?

Because he is a Jeu d'esprit (Jew de spree).

Pourquoi Napoleon court-il le risque d'être vaincu?

Parce qu'il a toujours un N mis (ennemi) devant et un N mis derrière.

Quand un gant resemble-t-il au numéro vingt-cinq?

Quand il est neuf et très étroit (et treize et trois)!

Why do rusty iron spikes on a wall remind you of ice?

Because they are so often called a "shiver de freeze."

Je suis ce que je suis,
Mais je ne suis pas ce que je suis;
Car si j'étais ce que je suis,
Je ne serais pas ce que jes suis.

Un Berger.

Which is the richest and which the poorest letter in the alphabet?

S and T, because we always hear of La Richesse and La Pauvreté!

Quelle difference y a-t-il enter le souverain de la Perse et le Viceroi d'Egypte?

C'est que l'un est chat (shah) et l'autre pas chat (Pacha).

Porquoi les Carthaginois portaient-ils toujours des gants?

Parce qu'ils n'aimaient pas l'air aux mains (les Romains)!

A French friend wishes to know—Vai ze Keeng ov Eatalee ees laike von seengair at ze Opera oo ees loozeeng ees voice?

Parce qu'l a perdu sa voix (Savoie).

Why is the final letter in Europe like a Parisian riot?

Because it's an E-mute!

FRIENDS

How can you always have friends?
If you make them.

Why is a true, faithful friend like garden seeds?
Because you never know their worth until they are under the sod.

Why is a false friend like the letter P?
Because, although always first in pity, he is always last in help.

Why are real friends like ghosts?
They are often heard of, but seldom seen.

In what color should friendship be kept?
In violet.

When is a man, like friendship, most easily tried?
When he stands a loan.

Why is a poor acquaintance better than a rich one?
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Why should a false friend never leave his house?
Because you might look in and "find him out."

Why is a convivial man like a Quaker?
Because he is fond of the Society of Friends.

Why is an honest friend like orange chips?
Because he's candid.

Why is a mirror like a dissatisfied and ungrateful friend?
Because, though you may positively load his back with silver, he will reflect on you.

When are two friends half-witted?
When they have an understanding between them.

FROGS

If a man shot at two frogs and killed one, what would the other one do?
Croak.

What fashionable game do frogs play at—besides leap-frog?
Croaky (croquet).

FROST

What did Jack Frost say when he proposed to the violet?
"Wilt thou?" and it wilted.

FRUITS

What fruit grows on telegraph wires?
Electric currents (currants).

Why are apples like printer's types?
Because they are often in pi(e).

What fruit is the most visionary?
The apple of the eye.

What fruit is like a statue?
Fig (ef-fi-gy).

When is a fruit not a fruit?
When it is a nut.

Why is an orange like a church steeple?
Because we have a peel from it.

What fruit is on a cent?
A date.

When are two apples alike?
When pared.

What is the best way to raise strawberries?
With a spoon.

Why is a cherry like a book?
Because it is red (read).

Why is an apple like a good song?
Because it is encored.

Why are strawberries in winter like a pair of antlered bucks?
Because they are too dear (two deer).

When is a fruit-stalk like a strong swimmer?
When it stems the currants.

Why are strawberries like the letter "n"?
Because they make ice nice.

When does a cherry fail in business?
When the red-breast sends in its robin bill.

Why is a peach-stone like a regiment?
Because it has a colonel (kernel).

Why should the highest apple on a tree be the best one?
Because it is a tip-top apple.

When is an apple like something else?
When it's a crab.

Why are green apples like Freemasons?
Because they both give the grip.

What is the difference between a man and a banana peel?
Sometimes the man throws the banana peel into the gutter, and sometimes the banana peel throws the man into the gutter.

FURS

Why is a man's face shaved in January like a celebrated fur?
Because it's a chin-chilly.

What plant would be the warmest shelter?
Furze (furs).

GAMBLING

Why is a lucky gambler an agreeable fellow?
Because he has such "winning" ways.

Why is a man who never bets as bad as a gambler?
Because he is no bettor (better).

What would be the best epitaph for a gambler?
Waiting for the last trump.

Why is a portrait of Queen Elizabeth like a wager which is neither lost nor won?
Because it's a drawn Bet!

What is the best throw of dice?
It is to throw them away.

GAMES

What games do the waves play?
Pitch and toss.

What is it that rises and falls, travels about and wears shoes out, but never had any shoes?
A football.

What game does a lady's bustle resemble?
Back-gammon.

Why is a tennis player like a society youth of limited means?
He is obliged to miss the ball when it comes high.

What is a great game on a small scale?
Cricket on the hearth.

What fashionable game do frogs play at—besides leap-frog?
Croaky (croquet).

GARDENS

What is the first thing a man sets in his garden?
His foot.

What is the difference between a gardener and a Chinaman?
One keeps the lawn wet, the other keeps the lawn dry (laundry).

Why is a gardener like a detective-story writer?
Because he works up his plot.

What's the difference between a gardener and a billiard marker?
One minds his peas, the other his cues.

Why is a gardener dissipated?
Because he's continually raking, and hoes (owes) a great deal!

Why is a gardener the most extraordinary man in the world?
Because he has more business on earth than any other man; he has good grounds for what he does; he is master of the mint; sets his own time (thyme); has more bows (boughs) than the President of the United States, and better still, he can raise his own celery (salary) every year.

Why is a gardener better paid than any other tradesman?
Because he has most celery (salary).

GARTERS

Why is a garter like the gates of a slaughter house?
Because it holds the stock in (stocking).

GATES

What gates are like church bells?
Toll gates.

What piece of carpentry becomes a gem as soon as finished?
A-gate.

GENEROSITY

Why is a generous, noble-hearted man like a number thirteen shoe?
Because he has a large soul (sole).

GEOGRAPHY

When do you become a country of South America?
When you are Chili.

Why should we not believe one word that comes from Holland?
Because it is such a low, lying (low-lying) country.

Why is a person bathing in the river at Paris like a madman?
Because he's in Seine (insane).

Why is Massachusetts like an egg?
Because it has a Hol-yoke.

What is the strongest rope in the world?
Europe.

What New York river asks a question, and a Vermont river answers it?
Hoo-sick? Pa-sum-sick.

What river in Austria answers the question, "Who is there"?
"I-ser."

Why is a barefooted boy like a Greenlander?
Because he wears no shoes (snow-shoes).

Why doesn't Sweden have to send abroad for cattle?
Because she keeps a stock home (Stockholm).

What place near Boston will make a man intoxicated?
Jamaica Plain.

If a colored waiter were carrying a turkey on a platter and let it fall, what four great national calamities would occur?
The downfall of Turkey, the breaking up of China, the overthrow of Greece, and the humiliation of Africa.

Why is a sneeze like Niagara?
Because it is a cátarrh-act.

Where were the first doughnuts fried?
In Greece.

What is the greatest surgical operation ever performed?
Lansing, Michigan.

If Mississ-ippi should lend Miss-ouri her New Jersey, what would Dela-ware?
Al-ask-a.

What was the greatest feat of strength ever performed?
Wheeling, West Virginia.

Why is Charing Cross?
Because the Strand runs into it.

If a man should break his knee where would he go to have it repaired?
To Africa, where the knee-groes (Negroes).

If a woman sustain similar injury where would she go?
To Jerusalem, where the she-knees ("Sheenies") are.

If a boy, where would he go?
To a butcher's, where kid-knees (kidneys) are sold.

Which are the lightest men, Scotch, Irish, or Englishmen?
Englishmen. In Scotland there are men of Ayr; in Ireland men of Cork, but in England are lightermen.

Why would a man never starve in the desert of Sahara?
Because of the sand which is (sandwiches) there.

What state is round at both ends, and high in the middle?
Ohio.

Which river is the coldest?
The Isis (ice is).

What is the happiest state in the Union?
Merryland (Maryland).

Why is the isthmus of Suez like the first u in cucumber?
Because it's between two seas.

What country is a favorite resort for lovers?
Lapland.

When is a book like a prisoner in the states of Barbary?
When it is bound in Morocco.

Which was the largest island before Australia was discovered?
Australia.

Why is New York City the wickedest city in the world?
Because they had to blow up "Hell Gate" to get in.

What river is that which runs between two seas?
The Thames, which runs between Chelsea and Batter-sea.

Why is Asia like a market in Thanksgiving or Christmas week?
There is always a Turkey in it.

Why is the letter I in Cicero like Arabia?
It is between two C's.

What sea would a man like to be in on a wet day?
Adriatic (a dry attic).

What town is drawn more frequently than any other?
Cork.

Why is a wick of a candle like Athens?
Because it is in Greece (grease).

Why is Canada like courtship?
Because it borders on the United States.

Why is the letter E like London?
Because it is the capital of England.

What Islands would form a cheerful luncheon party?
Friendly, Society, a Sandwich, and Madeira.

Why is Massachusetts like a statue?
Because it has a Marble-head.

What makes you say Noah was born in the State of New Jersey?
Wasn't he a New-ark man?

What is the most difficult river on which to get a boat?
Arno, because there Arno boats there.

What islands are the most prosperous?
The Fortunate Islands.

Why is Ireland like a bottle of wine?
Because it has a cork in it.

Why is the North Pole like a place where whiskey is illegally made?
Because it is a secret still.

Why is the Mississippi the most eloquent of rivers?
Because it has a dozen mouths.

Why should a person not like to gaze on the Niagara forever?
Because he would always have a cataract in the eye.

Why do so many of the Chinese travel on foot?
Because there is only one Cochin China (coach in China).

Why is the map of Turkey in Europe like a frying pan?
Because it has Greece on the bottom.

Why is Gibraltar one of the most wonderful places in the world?
Because it's always on the rock, but never moves.

What islands ought to be good singers?
The Canaries.

Which of the West India islands does a confectioner resemble?
Jamaica (Jam-maker).

What is more foolish than sending coals to Newcastle?
Sending milk to Cowes.

Why is China a desirable country for a lady to select a husband in?
Because she can go from Pekin (picking) to Chusan (choosing).

Why has Timothy Moore, since he has lost his hair, become like one of our southern cities?
He is bald Tim Moore (Baltimore).

Why is Berlin the most dissipated city in Europe?
Because it is always on the Spree.

When is a tourist in Ireland like a donkey?
When he is going to Bray.

What place should a glutton be sent to?
To Eat-on (Eton).

When is the river Thames good for the eyes?
When it is eye-water (high water).

What are the greatest obstacles to a Russian invasion of Turkey?
The baulkin' (Balkan) mountains.

Why is the river at Liverpool always thick?
Because "the quality of Mersey is not strained."

Why should Africa rightly be considered to rank first of the continents?
Because it bears the palm.

What island is nearest Heaven?
The Isle of Skye (sky).

If all the women went to China, where would the men go?
To Pekin.

Which is the best land for young children?
Lapland.

Out of what English river could you make bran?
The Usk.

If a thin man were to dress himself in a tall, fat man's clothes, what two cities in France would he resemble?
Toulon, Toulouse (too long, too loose).

Who are the two largest ladies in the United States?
Miss Ouri and Mrs. Sippi (Missouri and Mississippi).

What is the difference between a man looking at Niagara Falls, a man that is not looking at Niagara Falls and a ham sandwich?

One is seeing the mist and the other is missing the scene, and, oh, yes, about the ham sandwich, that's where you bite.

Where would you send a man to get an appetite?

To Hungary.

What is Kentucky noted for?

Shoots and booze.

Which islands are the most social?

The Society Islands.

Suppose we were to bore a hole exactly through the earth, starting from Dublin, and you went in at this end, where would you come out?

Where would you come out? why, out of the hole, to be sure!

What language should a linguist end with?

The Finnish.

What is that which is found only in the very center of America and Australia?

The letter R.

Why is the leaning tower of Pisa like Greenland?

Because it is oblique (is so bleak).

A member of the Travellers' wants to know what dish he must have ordered for dinner to be like one journeying to Tangier?

We say he must be going to Africa see ('ave fricassee).

What part of Spain does our cat, sleeping by herself on the hearth-rug, resemble?

Cat-alone here! (Catalonia).

What country does a crying baby sigh for?

More-rock-oh, or Lapland.

When are babies travelling abroad?

When going to Brest.

Why may the former Emperor of Russia be considered a flirt?

Because not content with Mol-davia, he went after Bess-Arabia and that Gal-icia.

What islands are good to eat?

The Sandwich Islands.

What is the difference between a native of Ceylon and an American spinster (not exactly in her *première jeunesse)?*
One is a single he (Cingalee), the other a single she!

Why should we pity the young Esquimaux?
Because each one of them is born to blubber!

What part of a bag of grain is like a Russian soldier?
A coarse-sack (cossack)!

When is the Hudson river good for the eyes?
When it's eye (high) water.

How do sailors know Long Island?
By the Sound.

Why is a pleasure-trip to Egypt fit only for very old gentlemen?
Because it's a see-Nile thing to do.

What extraordinary kind of meat is to be bought in the Isle of Wight?
Mutton from Cowes!

Why is a man hurrying to prevent his daughter Hannah falling over a precipice like one journeying to a city in the South?
Because he is going to save Hannah (Savannah).

Why is a young man engaged to a young lady like a person sailing for France?
Because he's going to Havre (have her).

Which Chinese city is like a man looking through a key-hole?
Pekin.

Which language does an Arabian child speak before it cuts its teeth?
Gum Arabic.

Who are the fastest people on earth?
The Rush-ons.

If Ireland should sink, what would float?
Cork.

Why is an island like the letter T?
Because it is in the midst of water.

What river is ever without a beginning or ending?
S-ever-n.

Which is the wickedest portion of America?
Why, Sin-sin-naughty, to be sure.

Why should consumptives avoid Java?
Because it is a cof-fee place.

What did Nashville Tennessee?
Wheeling West Virginia.

What did Tennessee?
It saw Idaho.

GEOLOGY

Why is geology considered a deep science?
Because it penetrates into the earth.

GEOMETRY

What geometrical figure represents a lost parrot?
Polygon (polly gone).

GERMAN

Was ist der untershied zwischen eine rothe Nase und die Krupp-ische Fabrik?
Die erste kommt vom trinken, die letzte von Essen.

Why does a stingy German like mutton better than venison?
Because he prefers "zat vich is sheep to zat vich is deer."

GIRLS

Why do most girls like ribbons?
Because they think the beaus becoming.

Why is a nice but uncultured girl like brown sugar?
Because she's sweet but unrefined.

When the girl was asked why she married a one-armed man, what do you think she said?
She said two-armed men are so common, and I do not want a common man.

Why is a pretty girl like a locomotive?
Because she sends off the sparks, transports the mails, and has a train following her.

Why is a pretty girl like a blacksmith's apron?
She receives many sparks.

Why is a pretty girl like a French mirror?
Because she is a good-looking lass.

Why do girls like looking at the moon?
Because there's a man in it.

When does a girl become a two-wheeled vehicle?
When she is a little sulky.

What three letters turn a girl into a woman?
"A—g—e."

What is the difference between a girl of sixteen and an old maid of sixty?
One is careless and happy; the other is hairless and cappy.

Teacher said, "Sonny, give me a word that rhymes with boy." What did the boy say?
He said girl. A true poet.

What is the difference between a honey comb, a honey moon, and a pretty girl?
A little sell, a big sell, and a dam-sel.

What is the difference between an apple and a girl?
You have to squeeze the apple to get cider, but you have to get sid'er to squeeze her.

Why is a man led astray like one governed by a girl?
He is miss-led.

Why are some girls like old muskets?
Because they use a good deal of powder, but won't go off.

When is a pretty girl like a ship?
When she is attached to a buoy (boy).

Why is it absurd to ask a pretty girl to be candid?
Because she cannot be plain.

What misses are of very jealous temper?
Mis-give and Mis-trust.

What miss is always making blunders?
Mis-take.

Why is a proud girl like a music book?
She is full of airs.

Why is a four-quart jug like a side-saddle?
Because they both hold a gal on (gallon).

When is a girl like candied fruit?
When candid.

Why is a neglected damsel like a fire that has gone out?
Because she has not a spark left.

Why is an amiable and charming girl like one letter in deep thought, another on its way towards you, another bearing a torch, and another singing psalms?
Because she is A-musing, B-coming, D-lighting, and N-chanting.

Why are pretty girls like fireworks?
Because they go off when touched by a spark.

Why are pretty girls like fire-works?
Because they soon go off.

Why are fast girls like gas lamps?
Because they are light-headed, and if they have anything in their heads it's a flame.

Why is a girl like an arrow?
Because she is sure to be in a quiver till her bow comes, and can't go off without one.

Why are country girls' cheeks like a good cotton dress?
Because they are warranted to wash and keep their color.

Why is one stall of a two-stall stable like a pretty girl?
Because it is seldom let alone.

What is the difference between a young girl and an old hat?
Merely a difference of time—one has feeling and the other has felt.

Why do you call your girl postscript?
Her name is Adeline Moore.

What consolation has the homely girl?
She will be a "pretty" old one if she lives long enough.

When is a spoon like a pretty girl?
When in tea resting (interesting).

What is the difference between a beautiful young girl and a codfish?
One has a chance to become a fall bride and the other to become a ball fried.

GIVING

What does the unworthy man think is more blessed to give than to receive?
Kicks, pills and advice.

GLASS

When is glass in any form an hour glass?
When it is our glass.

GLOVES

What is that which has neither flesh, bone or nail and yet has four fingers and a thumb?
A glove.

Why are gloves unsalable articles?
Because they are made to be kept on hand.

What animals are admitted at the opera?
White kids.

What animals are always seen at funerals?
Black kids.

Why is your thumb, when putting on a glove, like eternity?
Because it's ever-last-in' (everlasting).

GOATS

Why should the goat's milk be used in the dairy?
Because the goat makes the best butter.

What goes around a button?
A goat.

What is the best butter in the world?
The goat.

If a goat should swallow a rabbit what would be the result?
A hare in the butter.

If *one* goat *ate two* low-cut shoes, what would be the telephone number?
182 Oxford (one ate two Oxford—shoes).

An old woman in a red cloak was crossing a field in which a goat was feeding; what strange transformation suddenly took place?
The goat turned butter, and the woman became a "scarlet runner."

GOOD BREEDING

What is the key-note to good breeding?
B natural.

GOOD RESOLUTIONS

Why are good resolutions like ladies fainting in church?
Because the sooner they are carried out the better.

When may a man be said to be as hard up as a man can be?
When he cannot get credit for good intentions.

GOVERNESSES

What is the difference between a good and a bad governess?
One teaches Miss, the other misteaches.

GRAMMAR

What is the difference between a cat's feet and a comma?
One has claws at the end of the paws, and the other is a pause at the end of a clause.

What word will be made shorter if a syllable be added?
Short.

What word can be pronounced quicker by adding a syllable to it?
Quick.

Why were Adam and Eve a grammatical anomaly?
Because they were two relatives without an antecedent.

What is the longest sentence known to history.
Sentence for life.

Is it ever correct to say, "This 'ere" and "that'er?"
Yes, when you mean this ear and that air.

Why is an intoxicated man like a noun adjective?
Because he seldom stands alone.

Why is a door always in the subjunctive mood?
Because it is always wood (would)—or should be.

Why is English grammar like gout?
Because it's torture (taught yer).

Why is a girl not a noun?
Because a lass (alas) is an interjection.

What part of speech is most distasteful to lovers?
The third person.

What part of speech are shopkeepers most anxious to dispose of?
Articles.

Why does a good blow leave a blue mark?
Because blow in the perfect makes blue.

GRASS

Why is a field of grass like a person older than yourself?
Because it's pasturage (past your age).

Why is early grass like a penknife?
Because the springs bring out the blades.

Of what color is grass when covered with snow?
Invisible green.

Why is a lawn mower like the keeper of a bucket shop?
Because it shaves the green.

Why is grass like a mouse?
Because the cat'll eat it (cattle eat it).

GRASS WIDOWS

What is the difference between a grass-hopper and a grass widow?
None. Both will jump at the first chance.

GRAVITY

What is the center of gravity?
The letter V.

GROCERS

Why is a dealer in sugar and coffee worse than a smuggler?
Because the latter is a gross character; the former is a grocer (grosser).

State the difference between a grocer selling a pound of sugar, and an apothecary's boy with a pestle and mortar.
One weighs a pound, the other pounds away.

GUNS

Why is a gun like a jury?
It goes off when discharged.

When is a gun like a dismissed servant?
When it is discharged and goes off.

How do guns kick without legs?
They kick with their breeches.

Why is an acquitted prisoner like a gun?
Because he is charged, taken up and then let off.

Why are guns like trees?
People plant them and they shoot.

When is wine like guns?
When barreled.

If a Colt's pistol has six cartridges, how many ought a horse pistol to have?
Give it up.

Why is a rifle a very insignificant weapon?
Because it is within a "t" of being a trifle.

Of what profession is an Armstrong gun?
A breeches maker.

GYMNASTICS

Why are gymnastics like the tide at low water?
Because they develop the muscles (mussels).

HAIR

Why has man more hair than woman?
Because he is naturally her suitor (hirsuter).

Why does a man's hair generally turn gray sooner than his mustache?
Because it is about twenty-one years older.

What is the difference between a black-haired man and a bald-headed man?
One is crow-shade and the other nit (knit).

Why does a hair-dresser die a sad death?
Because he curls up and dies (dyes).

Why is one who uses hair dye like a suicide?
Because he dies by his own hand.

When does a man's hair resemble a packing box?
When it stands on end.

Why is a burglar using false keys like a lady curling her hair?
Because he is turning locks.

When is hair like a stick of wood?
When it is knotted.

When is a lady's hair like the latest news?
When it's in the papers.

HANDCUFFS

When are handcuffs like knapsacks?
When made for two-wrists (tourists).

HANDKERCHIEFS

On what supposition could pocket handkerchiefs build a house?
If they became brick (be cambric).

Why is a handkerchief like a ship?
Because it goes around the horn.

HANDS

When may a man be said to have four hands?
When he doubles his fists.

When has a man brown hands?
When he's tanned 'em (tandem) driving.

Why is a man's hand like a hardware store?
It has nails.

What are the most disagreeable articles for a man to keep on hand?
Hand-cuffs.

Why are our fingers like cats' claws?
Because they have nails on them.

HANGING

Why is the rudder of a steamboat like a hangman?
It has a stern duty to perform.

Why is a wainscotted room like a reprieve?
Because it saves hanging.

Why is the hangman's noose like a box with nothing in it?
Because it's hemp-tie (empty).

What should a man about to be hung have for breakfast?
A hearty-choke (artichoke) and a hoister (oyster)!

Why is a man hung better than a vagabond?
Because he has visible means of support.

Why is the gallows the last refuge of a condemned man?
He has nothing else to depend upon.

Why is a prisoner on his trial like a criminal hanging?
Because he's in a state of suspense.

HAPPINESS

Where can happiness always be found?
In the dictionary.

What is that which increases the more it is shared by others?
Happiness.

HARDSHIPS

What are the most difficult ships to conquer?
Hardships.

HASTE

What is the best thing to make in a hurry?
Haste.

What is the best thing to do in a hurry?
Nothing.

HATS

When is a hat not a hat?
When it becomes a woman.

When is a hat like a kitchen?
When it has a stove in it.

Why should a straw hat never be raised to a lady on the street?
Because it is not felt.

Which member of Congress wears the largest hat?
The one who has the largest head.

Why is a wide-awake hat so called?
Because it never had a nap, and never wants any.

Why is a box on the ears like a hat?
Because it is felt.

Why is a straw hat like kissing through a telephone?
Because neither is felt.

What is that which is above all human imperfections, and yet shelters the weakest and most depraved, as well as the best of men?
A hat.

Why is a hat like a king?
It has a crown.

Why does a miller wear a white hat?
To keep his head warm.

Why is a bad hat like a fierce snarling pup dog?
Because it snaps (its nap's) awful.

Why don't horses wear hats?
Because it would give them a hos-tile (hostile) appearance.

What, as milliners say, is "the sweetest things in bonnets?"
A lady's two-lips.

HEADS

In what place are two heads better than one?
In a barrel.

HEALTH

Why is a healthy person like the United States?
Because they possess a good constitution.

When is a man like frozen rain?
When he is hale (hail).

HEAT

Which travels the faster, heat or cold?
Heat, for you can catch cold.

HEAVEN

Why are there no whiskered men in heaven?
Because men get in by a close shave.

What kind of men go to heaven?
Dead men.

HILLS

What is the difference between a hill and a pill?
One is hard to get up and the other is hard to get down.

HISTORY

If you were going down the street and met the Goddess of Liberty out walking, what would you say to her?
"Hello; you're off you're base!"

Why is the Goddess of Liberty scantily clad?
Because she only has one Jersey to her back.

What did the pilgrims do when they first landed in this country?
First they fell on their knees, then fell on the aborigines.

What colored woman might have prevented Dewey from taking Manila?
Dinah might (dynamite).

Why didn't the Czar of Russia use a footstool?
Because he was afraid to have the Ottoman under foot.

Where was Cæsar going when he was 39 years old?
Into his fortieth year.

The name of what character of history would a person mention in asking the servant to put coal on the fire?
Philip the Great (fill up the grate).

Why are the Middle Ages called the Dark Ages?
Because there were so many nights (knights) then.

Why did Henry VIII differ from other suitors?
Because he married his wives first and axed them afterwards.

Why is Athens like a worn-out shoe?
Because it once had a Solon (sole on).

How do we know that the Germans are not in need of sugar?
Because they have been raising cane constantly for years.

Why did Cranmer fare better in his last hours than Charles I?
Because a hot steak is preferable to a cold chop.

Why is Westminster Abbey like a fireplace?
Because it contains the ashes of the grate (great).

When was beef tea first introduced into England?
When Henry VIII dissolved the Pope's bull.

When were the English people poor judges of cattle?
When the Pope sent a bull and they thought it a bore (boar).

Why is a worn-out shoe like ancient Greece?
Because it once had a sole on (Solon).

What great Scotchman would you name if a footman knocked at the door?
John Knox.

What is the favorite fruit of history?
Dates.

Why was the death of John Huss, who was burned at the stake, preferable to that of Charles I, who was beheaded?
A hot steak is better than a cold chop.

Which death would you prefer to die, Joan of Arc's or Mary Stuart's?
Most people prefer Joan of Arc's, because they like a hot steak better than a cold chop.

What was the Chinaman's opinion of the Spanish war?
Spaniard all talk-ee, talk-ee. Melican all Dewey-Dewey.

What letter made Queen Bess mind her P's and Q's?
R made her (Armada).

What did Queen Elizabeth take her pills in?
Why, in cider (inside her).

What is the difference between Niagara Falls and Queen Elizabeth?
One is a wonder, the other was a Tudor.

What was Joan of Arc made of?
Maid of Orleans, of course.

What did the seven wise men of Greece do when they met the sage of Hindoostan?
Eight saw sages (ate sausages).

How do we know that Cæsar was acquainted with the Irish?
When he crossed the Rhine he came back to Bridg-it.

Why was it decided to sink the Merrimac?
Because it was "Hobson's Choice."

Why was Columbus a very dissipated man, according to Mark Twain?
He has been on a bust four hundred years.

What 'bus has found room for the greatest number of people?
Colum-bus.

What three letters give the name of a famous Roman general?
C P O (Scipio).

When could the British Empire be purchased for the lowest sum?
When Richard the Third offered his kingdom for a horse.

Why was the French Empress always in bad company?
Because she was always surrounded by Paris-ites.

Why did the Highlanders do most execution at Waterloo?
Because every man had one kilt before the battle.

What reason is there to believe that Othello was really a lawyer?
Because he was a tawny-general of Venice.

Why is a Bostonian's brain like a book of conundrums?
Because it is full of notions.

Why were the Russian accounts of the Crimean battles like the English and French?
Because they were al-lies.

Why is Philadelphia more subject to earthquakes than any other city?
Because she is a Quaker city.

What letter of the alphabet is most like a Roman emperor?
The C's are.

What was the first scene at the Chicago fire?
Kerosene.

When King Charles the First was beheaded, off what dish did his executioner dine, and where?
He took a chop at the King's Head.

Had he his Majesty's permission to perform the operation?
He axed him whether he would or no.

Why is the Louvre the cheapest palace ever erected?
Because it was partly built for one sovereign and finished for another.

In what respects were the governments of Algiers and Malta as different as light is to darkness?
One was governed by deys (days), the other by Knights (nights).

Why did William Tell shudder when he shot the apple from his son's head?
Because it was an arrow escape for his child.

Why was Louis Napoleon like a very wet day?
Because he reigned (rained) as long as he could, and then he mizzled.

Which of the English monarchs had most reason to complain of his laundress?
John, when he lost his baggage in the Wash.

Why wasn't Taft buried in New York?
He isn't dead yet.

Why was the Parliament of the Commonwealth like Samson?
Because it overthrew a house of lords.

Why should Denmark be an eminently religious country?
Because it has had so many Christians kings.

What fowl's bone is like a great French general?
The wishbone of a chicken, for it is a bone-a-part.

What was Louis Napoleon's great cabbage?
Savoy (and Nice)!

Why is an historical event like a parcel untied and tied again?
Because it is re-corded.

What history is that which repeats itself?
The history of nations. Your private history is repeated by your neighbors.

Why do our custom officers represent Cæsar the Great?
Because they are seizers.

Why was Leander voluntarily drowned?
It was through his-whim (his swim) only!

Show that a simple typographical error was the cause of the defeat of the poor Austrians at Sadowa?
They sent for reserves and got reverses!

If you wish a very religious man to go to sleep, by what imperial name should you address him?
Nap-holy-un.

What letter of the Greek alphabet did the ex-King Otho probably last think of on leaving Athens?
Oh!-my-crown (omicron).

What's the difference between a specimen of plated goods and Columbus?
One is a dishcover, the other a dis(h)coverer!

Why is the letter P like a Roman Emperor?
Because it's Nero (near O).

What was it gave the Indian eight and ten-legged gods their name of Manitous?
Why, their many toes, of course!

Which one of the Seven Wonders of the World are locomotive engines like?
The coal-horses of roads (Colossus of Rhodes).

What young ladies won the battle of Salamis?
The Miss Tocles (Themistocles).

Tell us, why was William Tell like a post?
Because they couldn't get a bough out of him!

Why is a Greek fable like a garret?
Because it is an Attic Story.

Why is a tournament like sleep?
It is a (k)nightly occupation.

What departed statesmen cannot be said to have gone to dust?
Henry Clay.

HOLES

How many bushels of earth can you take out of a hole that is three feet square and three feet deep?
None. It has all been taken out.

The more you take away the larger it grows, what is it?
A hole.

What can a man have in his pocket when it's empty?
A big hole.

HONEYMOONS

What is the difference between a honeycomb and a honeymoon?
One is made up of a lot of little cells, the other is one enormous sell only.

Why is the crabbed old bachelor who made the above conundrum like a harp struck by lightning?
Because he is a blasted lyre.

HOPE

What cannot be called a disinterested act of hospitality?
Entertaining a hope.

What sweetens the cup of life, yet, divested of its end, embitters the most grateful draught?
Hope-Hop.

HORSES

How do you make a slow horse fast?
Stop feeding him.

When is a horse a victim of the Inquisition?
When fastened to the rack.

Why should a colt avoid exposure?
Because it might take cold and become a little horse (hoarse).

How can one put a horse on his metal?
Shoe him.

Why is a horse the most curious feeder?
Because he eats best when there is not a bit in his mouth.

Why is a horse like the letter O?
Because Gee (G) makes it Go.

Why is a horse like the most miserable of animals?
Because his thoughts are always on the rack.

Why is a colt like an egg?
It must be broken before it can be used.

Why is a race-horse like a leaky barrel?
It runs.

Why is a horse like a stick of candy?
The faster you lick it the faster it goes.

Why are horses inveterate gossips?
Because they have always been "tail" bearers.

What is most like a horse's foot?
A mare's.

Why is a well-trained horse like a benevolent man?
Because he stops at the sound of whoa (woe).

Why does tying a slow horse to a post improve his pace?
It makes him fast.

Barnum had in his museum ten horses that only had twenty-four feet in all, and yet traveled as well as other horses; how was it possible?
Twenty fore feet.

Why does a bay horse never pay toll?
Because his master pays it for him.

When is a horse like a house?
When he has blinds on.

What is the principal part of a horse?
The mane (main) part.

Why is a hack horse a miserable creature?
Because his mind is always on the rack, and his only consolation is woe (whoa)!

Why is a distanced horse like a man in a shady place?
Because he is out of the heat.

Why should a horse never be hungry on a journey?
Has it not a bit in its mouth!

How can it be proved that a horse has six legs?
Because he has forelegs in front and two legs behind.

Why is the horse the most humane of all animals?
Because he gladly gives the bit out his mouth, and listens to every woe (whoa).

Why is a horse cleverer than a fox?
Because a horse can run when he is in a trap and a fox can't.

Why is a horse an anomaly in the hunting-field?
Because the better tempered he is the easier he takes a fence (offense).

Why is the last horse of a string like the accepter of a bill?
Because it is the endorser (end horse, sir).

Why does a man think of his mother's slippers when he handles the lines behind a fine, well-matched pair of horses?
Because they are such a spanking pair.

Why is a person approaching a candle like a man getting off his horse?
Because he is going to a-light.

Why are circus-horses such slow goers?
Because they are taught-'orses (tortoises)!

When a horse speaks, why does he do so always in the negative?
Because he neighs (nays).

When is a horse like a schoolboy?
When he knows his (s)table.

HOTELS

What kind of servants are best for hotels?
The inn-experienced.

What do you expect at a hotel?
Inn-attention.

What sort of a musical instrument resembles a bad hotel?
A vile-in.

Why is a good tavern like a bad one?
Because both are inn-convenient.

HOUSES

Why is a magnificent house like a book of anecdotes?
It has generally some good stories in it.

When is a house like an eagle?
When it has wings.

HUNTING

Why would it affront an owl to mistake him for pheasant?
It would be making game of him.

How can you shoot one hundred and twenty hares at one shot?
Fire at a wig.

A hunter and his dog went out hunting. The dog went not behind, went not before, nor on one side of him. Where did he go?
On the other side.

How can hunters find their game in the woods?
By listening to the bark of the trees.

Why is a very amusing man like a bad shot?
Because he keeps the game alive.

There are twelve birds in a covey; Jones kills a brace, then how many remain?
None; for—unless they are idiots—they fly away!

HUSBANDS

What is it a man never has, never had, never can have, but can give to a lady?
A husband.

Why are good husbands like dough?
Because women need (knead) them.

Why are husbands like dynamite?
Because they are liable to be blown up at any moment.

When is a night-light like a tombstone?
When it is set up for a late husband.

When should ladies keep a proper rein on their husbands?
Whenever they demand a great deal of freedom, give them a little bit.

Why do women seek husbands named William?
That they may have a "Will" of their own.

Why is a bankrupt husband an ardent lover?
Because his is unremitting affection.

Why is a man sometimes like dough?
Not because a woman needs (kneads) him, but because he is hard to get off of her hands.

ICE

When can you carry water in a sieve?
When it is frozen.

If a Uneeda biscuit is a soda cracker, what is an ice pick?
A water cracker.

What is that which lives in the winter, dies in the summer, grows with its roots upwards?
An icicle.

What kind of a sickle is most seen in winter?
An ice sickle (icicle).

ICE CREAM

When is ice cream not ice cream?
When it is nut ice cream.

IDEAS

What is better than an idea?
You dea'.

When is an original idea like a clock?
When it strikes one.

What is the brightest idea in the world?
Your eye, dear.

Why must a Yankee speculator be very subject to water on the brain?
Because he has always an ocean (a notion) in his head.

IDOLS

Why are wheat and potatoes like Chinese idols?
Because they have ears which can't hear, eyes which can't see.

IGNORANCE

Who are the men who have made their mark?
Those who can't write.

IMBECILITY

When may two people be said to be half-witted?
Those who have an understanding between them.

INDIANS

Why is it foolish to educate the Indians?
Because they are naturally well red.

INK

What is that which though black enlightens the world?
Ink.

IRISH

Why do Irish peasants wear capes?
To cape them warm.

If we get parasites from Paris, and germs from Germany, what do we get from Ireland?
Microbes (Mike-robes).

How do we know that Cæsar was acquainted with the Irish?
When he crossed the Rhine he went back to Bridget (bridge it).

Why are the Irish a quarrelsome race?
Because they are always in a stew (Irish stew).

Why are the Irish an uneducated race?
Because their national color is green.

Which country ought to be the richest in the world?
Ireland; for its capital is always Dublin (doubling).

What is the difference between a frozen Irishman on a bleak mountain-top and a Highland Scotchman?
One is kilt with the cowld and the other is cowled with the kilt.

Why is a man climbing a volcano like an Irishman trying to kiss a girl?
He is trying to get at the crater's mouth.

When is butter like Irish children?
When it is made into little pats.

Why is a drunken Irishman like a sentinel going his rounds?
Because he is pat-rolling.

What is a common miracle in Ireland?
Waking the dead.

What is the difference between a dead nigger and a dead Irishman?
When a nigger is dead he's dead, but when an Irishman's dead they wake him.

When can an Irish servant answer two questions at the same time?
When she is asked, "What's o'clock, and where's the cold chicken?" if she replies, "Sure, it's ate."

Give an Irishman's definition of a lake.
A hole in the tay-kettle.

Why is it to the advantage of an Irishman to be born in the United States instead of in Ireland?
Because he saves the price of his passage over.

Why have we reason to doubt the existence of the Giant's Causeway?
Because Ireland abounds with sham-rocks.

How does Patrick propose to get over his single blessedness?
By proposing to Bridge-it.

Why is a candle nearly burnt out like a certain county in Ireland?
Because it is Wick-low.

How does Ireland rule America?
Through the police force.

IRON

When is iron ironical?
When it is a-railing.

JEWELERS

Why is a jeweler like a prisoner in solitary confinement?
Because he has too much time on his hands.

Why is a jeweler like a screeching singer?
Because he pierces the ears.

How does the name jeweler describe the character of many men in that trade?
They are Jew-liars.

JEWS

Why is a sick Jew like a diamond?
He is a Jew-ill (jewel).

What animal is that from which if you take off the tip of its tail you make a first-rate Jew?
"Rabbit—Rabbi."

Like what month is a falsehood spoken by a Jew?
Jew-lie (July).

What is the scarcest thing in the world?
A ham sandwich at a Jew picnic.

JOKES

Why is a joke less durable than a church bell?
Because after it has been told (toll'd) a few times it is worn out.

What joke reminds one of the seat of government in Washington?
A capital one.

JUDGES

Why is a judge's nose like the middle of the earth?
Because it is the center of gravity.

Why must a magistrate be cold and chilly?
He is just-ice.

Why do you think that a judge of the criminal court is looked upon with contempt?
Because every day the worst of scoundrels are set before him.

JUMPING

Sam Patch would go up to the tallest trees, take off his boots and jump over them.
Over his boots.

JURIES

What jury of twelve tries us for a year?
The twelve months; they all try us.

Why do some juries stand on their dignity?
Because they think themselves grand, when they are petty.

KEEPSAKES

When you give a lady a lock of your hair, what else does she receive from you at the same time?
A key to your feelings.

KEYS

What is the most difficult key to turn?
Don-key.

What key opens the penitentiary for a dissipated man?
Whis-key.

KISSING

Why do girls kiss each other, while boys do not?
The girls have nothing better, while boys have.

Why is a dog on a refrigerator like a kiss?
Dog on ice.

Why are kisses like the creation?
Because they are made of nothing and are pronounced very good.

When are kisses sweetest?
When sirup-titiously obtained.

What is the shape of a kiss?
Elliptical (a-lip-tickle).

Why is a kiss like gossip?
Because it goes from mouth to mouth.

Why is a kiss like a properly divided sermon?
It requires an introduction, two heads, and an application.

What is the military definition of a kiss?
A report at headquarters. The naval definition? *Pleasure smack.*

What is a kiss?
A receipt given by a lady on paying your addresses.

Why are two ladies kissing each other like an emblem of Christianity?
Because they are both doing unto each other as they would men should do unto them.

Where in the Bible do we find authority for women to kiss men?
"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

What is the difference between a rejected and an accepted lover?
One misses the kisses and the other kisses the misses.

Which tree is most suggestive of kissing?
Yew. (This is a riddle which should be used with due precaution.)

What weapon does a young man use if he kisses a young lady by mistake?
A blunder-buss.

What is the difference between a sewing machine and a kiss?
One sows seams nice, and the other seems so nice.

What part of speech is kissing?
A conjunction.

What is it which comes into the world at just a nice height from the ground for you to extract its sweetness, and yet is both a sign of treachery and amity?
A kiss.

Why is an abstract of a lecture like a sentimental boy and girl kissing?
Because it's a syllabus (silly buss).

Why is a riddle like a second kiss?
Because it's a rebus (re-buss).

When two people kiss, what kind of a riddle does it make?
A rebus.

Why are confectioners so much sought for?
Because they serve kisses.

What is a kiss?
Nothing, divided by two.

Why are confectioners mercenary lovers?
Because they always sell their kisses.

Why are there two s's in "kiss"?
Because it takes two to complete the spell.

KITES

What is the best material for kites?
Flypaper.

KNAPSACKS

Why do knapsacks resemble handcuffs?
Because both are made for tourists (two wrists).

KNAVES

Why is the world like a piano?
Because there are so many flats and sharps in it.

KNOTS

Why are true lovers' knots out of fashion?
Because they are not novel-ties.

What cord is that which is full of knots, which no one can untie, and which no one can tie?
A cord of wood.

Why is a loose knot like an infirmity?
Because it is a frail-ty.

LADDERS

Why is a ladder like a prize fight?
Because it is made up of rounds.

LADIES

Why is a handsome woman like bread?
She is often toasted.

When is a lady's arm not a lady's arm?
When it is a little bare (bear).

Why is a lady when embraced like a pocketbook?
Because she is clasped.

What two beaus can every lady have near at hand?
El-bows.

When is a blow from a lady welcome?
When she strikes you agreeably.

When you see a lady in distress, what should you pull up, and what bury?
You should pluck up courage and inter-fear (interfere) in her behalf.

What do ladies look for when they go to church?
The Sams (psalms) and hims (hymns).

When may a lady be absolutely pronounced to be quite past recovery?
When she is speechless, and can only chatter with her teeth.

Why are ladies like hinges?
Because they are things to a door (adore).

When may ladies who are enjoying themselves be said to look wretched?
When at the opera, as then they are in tiers.

To what chap-el ought those ladies to go who are so fond of looking out for the hims?
A chapel of he's!

Why is a painted lady like a pirate?
She wears false colors.

Which is the best place to hold the World's Fair?
On your heart; the fair one.

Why are ladies the biggest thieves in existence?
Because they "steel" their petticoats, "bone" their stays, "crib" their babies, and "hook" their dresses.

When is a lady like a poacher?
When she nets her hair (hare).

What is the difference between a lady and a postage stamp?
One is a female, the other a mail-fee.

Why are park railings like a lady's corset?
Because they confine a deer (dear).

When is a lady's hair like the latest news?
When it's in the papers.

Why are ladies like their own watches?
Because they are pretty to look at, have sweet faces and delicate hands, but are somewhat difficult to regulate when once set going.

When could you eat a lady's hand?
When it is a warm muff in.

Why are ladies so fond of officers?
Because every lady likes a good offer, sir (officer).

Why are American ladies like the American forts?
Because their breastworks are always open to protect and succor the American infantry.

What should ladies and tailors equally avoid?
Bad habits.

LAMP-POSTS

What does a lamp-post become when the lamp is removed?
A lamp-lighter.

LAMPS

Why is a lamp like a house?
Because it has a chimney.

When is a lamp not a lamp?
When it is alight.

Why is a well worn lamp wick like a Saturday night?
Because it is the end of the wick (week).

When can a lamp be said to be in bad temper?
When it is put out.

LAND

What is it that has rods never used for fishing, poles on which you cannot hang flags, and perches upon which birds never rested?
An acre.

LATIN

What is the difference between a farmer and a sailor?
One is a rusticus—the other a nauticus. (Latin Der.)

Why does a salmon die before it lives?
Because its existence is ova (over) before it comes to life.

What Latin verb gives the origin of the term "Jack tar?"
Jactari, to be tossed about!

LAUGHING

What should you do if you split your sides with laughter?
Run till I got a "stitch" in them.

LAW

Why are laws like the ocean?
The most trouble is caused by the breakers.

Why is Blackstone like an Irish vegetable?
He is a commentator (common tater).

What sort of a cold is necessary to insure your getting on well at Court?
Influence-sir.

LAWSUITS

What is that which nobody wishes to have and nobody likes to lose?
A lawsuit.

Those who have me not, do not wish for me; those who have me, do not wish to lose me; those who gain me, have me no longer.
A lawsuit.

Why are prevaricating witnesses like a garden railing?
Because they're fencing.

LAWYERS

Why is a lawyer like a wine clerk?
Both are bar-tenders.

Why would a pelican make a good lawyer?
He knows how to stretch his bill.

Who are the best men to send to war?
Lawyers, because their charges are so great no one can stand them.

When is a lawyer like a donkey?
When he is drawing a conveyance.

When is he unlike one?
Don't know.

Why do lawyers hold such different opinions?
Because their living depends on their differences.

Why are lawyers like crows?
Because they like to have their cause (caws) heard.

Why is a lawyer a good sleeper?
Because he lies on one side then turns and lies on the other.

What is a lawyer's favorite pudding?
Suet. (Sue-it).

What do lawyers do when they die?
Lie still.

Why is necessity like an ignorant lawyer?
Because it knows no law.

Why is a fee to a barrister like an agreement?
Because it is a bar-gain.

Why is a lawyer like a sawyer?
Whichever way he goes, down must come the dust.

Why are lawyers and doctors safe people by whom to take example?
Because they practice their professions.

Why is a lawyer like an honest man?
He is a man of deeds as well as of words.

In what does a lawyer resemble a woodcock?
In the length of his bill.

Why is a barrister like a saloon-keeper?
Because his business depends upon his standing at the bar.

Whence proceeds the eloquence of a lawyer?
From his mouth.

Why are lawyers the most intemperate people?
Because they are continually practicing at the bar.

Why does a young man study law?
To get on.

Why does he continue in the profession?
To get honor.

Why does he leave the profession?
To get honest.

Why are lawyers such uneasy sleepers?
Because they lie first on one side, and then on the other, and remain wide awake all the time.

Why is a young lawyer in his office like one of his chickens roosting on his neighbor's fence?
He has no business there.

In what respect does an attorney resemble a clergyman?
He studies the law and profits (prophets).

Why are lawyers like shears?
Because they do not cut each other, but only what comes between them.

What proverb must a lawyer *not* act up to?
He must not take the will for the deed!

Why should lawyers sleep well?
Because it is immaterial on which side they lie.

Why is a beggar like an attorney?
Because he is a solicitor.

How do lawyers often prove their love to their neighbors?
By attachment.

Why are lawyers like fishes?
Because they are fond of "de-bate."

Why is a lawyer like a cat?
Because he belongs to the fee-line race?

Why are the mouths of lawyers like toll gates?
Because they are never opened except for pay.

When is a lawyer like a crow?
When he wishes his caws to be heard, and gets raven mad about it.

Why is a lawyer like a wine clerk?
Because they are bar-tenders.

What is a common saying about the veracity of lawyers?
All lawyers are liars, but all liars are not lawyers.

LAZINESS

Why are tallest people the laziest?
Because they are always longer in bed than others.

LECTURES

Why is a lecture on board a ship like a young lady's necklace?
Because it is a decoration (deck-oration).

LEGS

What two animals follow you everywhere?
Your calves.

What class of people in America have no legs?
Women; they have limbs.

LEISURE

What is the difference between a life of leisure and a life of idleness?
They are the same thing, only different titles.

LETTERS

Why does opening a letter resemble a strange way of entering a room?
Because it is breaking through the ceiling.

LIBRARIES

What is the highest public building in Boston?
The public library has the most stories.

LIFE

Why is life like a harness?
There are traces of care, lines of trouble, bits of good fortune, breeches of good manners, bridled tongues, and everybody has a tug to get through.

Which is the greatest riddle?
Life, for we all have to give it up.

What is the most dangerous kind of an assassin?
One who takes life cheerfully.

Is life worth living?
It depends on the liver.

Why is life like a chess-board?
Because it is chequered.

What is that which we receive without thanks, which we enjoy without knowing how, which we bestow on others without knowing where it is to be found, and which we lose without being sensible of its loss?
Life.

How can you prove that you exist?
By inducing a little honey-gatherer to "bee" active it will give you a stinging illustration.

LIGHTNING

Why does the lightning turn milk sour?
Because it doesn't know how to conduct itself.

LIGHTS

What is the very best and cheapest light, especially for painters?
Daylight.

What subject can be made light of?
Gas.

How does light get through a prism?
It hews (hues) its way through.

What light could not possibly be seen in a dark room?
An Israe-lite.

What happens when a light falls into the water at an angle of forty-five degrees?
It goes out.

What is that which makes everything visible but is itself unseen?
Light.

LIPS

What flowers can be found between the nose and chin?
Tulips (two lips).

Why is lip-salve like a chaperon?
Because it is intended to keep the chaps away.

LISPING

Why is it impossible for a person who lisps to believe in the existence of young ladies?
Because with him every miss is a myth.

LITERARY

What author should have an inexhaustible supply of small talk?
Chatterton.

Who wrote the most—Dickens, Warren, or Bulwer?
Dickens. Warren wrote "Now and Then," Bulwer "Night and Morning," and Dickens "All the Year Round."

What author represents the truest phase of society?
Holmes.

Place a cereal between two small insects and make the name of a famous poet?
B-ry-ant.

What author is the most ecclesiastic?
Pope.

What author is among those always coming?
Campbell.

What philosophical writer resembles one of the cloth?
Priestley.

What author is small and sour?
Crabbe.

What author's name repeats the waiter's advice regarding a tough steak?
Chaucer (chaw, sir).

What author is like the unfrequented beach?
Shelley.

If you saw a house on fire, what three poets' names would you pronounce?
Dickens, Howitt, Burns.

What poet's name expresses his own life work?
Wordsworth.

What author is the most martial in character?
Shake-speare.

What author is a perfect pig?
Hogg.

What author is the former author slain?
Bacon.

What author sought heavenly favors?
Praed.

If you saw a cigar on a music stand, of what great poem would it remind you?
The Lay of the Last Minstrel.

Why is a pig with a curly continuation like the ghost of Hamlet's father?
Because it could a tail (tale) unfold.

Of what trade was Jack Horner?
A plumber.

How do we know that Shakespeare was a broker?
Because he furnished many stock quotations.

Why is Haverhill so clean a city?
Because they keep Hannah Dustin there all the time.

What poet's works were jewels?
Goldsmith.

Why was "Uncle Tom's Cabin" never written by the hand of a woman?
Because it was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe (Beecher's toe).

When does meat resemble a poet?
When it is Browning.

What poet was never slow?
Swift.

If Rider Haggard had been Lew Wallace, who would "She" have been?
"Ben-Hur" (been "Her").

Which is the most brilliant member of the alphabet?
The Scarlet Letter.

If an egg were found on a music-stool, what poem of Sir Walter Scott's would it remind you of?
The Lay of the Last Minstrel.

Who is the greatest chicken-killer spoken of in Shakespeare?
Macbeth, because he "did murder most foul."

What great writer's name might you appropriately mention if you were standing by the grave of Bob Ingersoll?
Robert Burns.

What is a singular and melancholy fact in the history of Milton?
That he could recite his poems but could not resight himself.

Why is a lady when sick at sea like some of our literary men?
Because she is a contributor to the "Atlantic."

Who was the most successful surveyor on record?
Alexander Selkirk, for he was monarch of all he surveyed.

Why has the Mayor ordered the public library closed?
For fear the magazines will blow up.

When Homer called the sea barren, why did it illustrate the age in which he lived?
Because it was before Cecrops (sea crops).

Why is the letter R like the face of Hamlet's father?
Because it is "more in sorrow than in anger."

Why is a Greek fable like a garret?
Because it is an Attic Story.

What writer would have been the best angler?
The judicious Hooker.

Why is a cook like a student of philosophy?
Because she is accustomed to fry her (Friar) Bacon.

Why is a thief picking a counterfeiter's pocket reminded of a line in Othello?
Because "who steals his purse steals trash."

Why did the boy stand on the burning deck?
Because it was too hot to sit down.

If William Penn's aunts kept a pastry shop, what would be the prices current of their pies?

The pie rates of Penn's Aunts (Pirates of Penzance).

What would you expect to find on a literary man's breakfast table?

Bacon's Remains, Final memories of Lamb, if in season, and Shelley fragments.

Why was Robinson Crusoe not alone on the desert island?

Because there was a heavy swell on the beach and a sandy cove running up the shore.

What best describes and most impedes a Christian Pilgrim's Progress?

A Bunyan (bunion).

What is both food for the body and food for the mind?

Bacon.

When is a pie like a poet?

When it's Browning.

Why is the "Outlook" like a man of fourscore?

Because it's weekly.

Is there any bird that can sing the "Lays of Ancient Rome?"

Yes, they are Macaw-lays (Macaulays).

Why should a favorite hen be called Macduff?

Because we wish her to lay on.

What language should a linguist end with?

The Finnish.

What question of three words may be asked Tennyson concerning a brother poet, the said question consisting of the names of three poets only?

Watt's Tupper's Wordsworth (what's Tupper's words worth)?

Why are Æsop's speaking animals not so very improbable?

Because we still hear of deers talking (deer-stalking) in the Highlands.

"Why," asked Moore the poet, "is love like a potato?"

Because it shoots from the eyes, "and" (added Byron) "gets less by pairing (paring)!"

Why was Dickens a greater man than Shakespeare?
Because Shakespeare wrote well, but Dickens wrote Weller.

Why was Bulwer more likely to get tired of novel-writing than Warren?
Because Bulwer wrote "Night and Morning," Warren only wrote "Now and Then."

When is a slug like a poem of Tennyson's?
When it's in a garden ("Enoch Arden")!

How do we know Lord Byron did not wear a wig?
Because every one admired his coarse-hair (corsair) so much!

What author would eye-glasses and spectacles mention to the world if they could only speak?
You see by us (Eusebius)!

Why are Addison's works like a looking-glass?
Because in them we see the "Spectator."

Why do we speak of poetic fire?
Because, if the ancient Scandinavians had their "Scalds," we have also had our Burns!

Why should the poet have expected the woodman to "spare that tree"?
Because he thought he was a good feller!

How can you instantly convict one of error when stating who was the earliest poet?
By mentioning one Prior.

What poem of Hood's resembles a tremendous Roman nose?
The bridge of size (sighs)!

Why did the man call his rooster Robinson?
Because it Crusoe.

What are the "Lays of Spring"?
Fresh eggs.

What is the difference between Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth?
One was a wonder; the other a Tudor.

LOADS

If one man carries a sack of floor and another man carries two sacks, who has the heavier load?

A sack of flour is heavier than two empty sacks. (The one that carries the sack of flour.)

LOAFERS

What is the best way to keep loafers from standing on the corners?

Give them chairs and let them sit down.

LOCKS

Why is a lock like a hospital?

Because it has wards in it.

LOST ARTICLES

Why is it that whenever you are looking for anything you always find it in the last place you look?

Because you always stop looking when you find it.

LOVE

How can a woman keep a man's love?

By not returning it.

Why is falling in love like catching the measles?

The older you are when it happens, the harder it goes with you.

When is love deformed?

When it is all on one side.

Why is love like a potato?

Because it shoots from the eyes and gets less by pairing.

Why do blind men so often marry blind women.

Because love is blind.

Why is Cupid always represented as a baby boy?

Because love so often dies in its infancy.

Why is love always represented as a child?
Because it never reaches the age of discretion.

What is the difference between love and war?
One breaks hearts, the other heads.

Why is it nonsense to pretend that love is blind?
Because you never knew a man in love that did not see ten times more in his sweetheart than others did.

How should love come to the door?
With a ring.

Why do love letters have a financial value?
Because they are promissory notes?

Why is love like a canal boat?
Because it is an internal transport.

Why is love like a duck's foot?
Because it often lies hidden in the breast.

Why is love like a candle?
Because the longer it burns the less it becomes.

How should love come to the door?
With a "ring" but not without a "rap" (wrap).

LOVERS

When is a lover like a tailor?
When he presses his suit.

What ship has two mates but no captain?
Courtship.

What implement of war does an angry lover represent?
Cross bow (beau).

Why is a coachman like a lover?
Because he always desires to be remembered by his fare.

Why is a lover like a knocker?
Because he is bound to adore (a door).

Why does a young man think his sweetheart is like a door-knob?
Because she is something to adore (a door).

How do we know the fair queen of day has a lover?
She is always followed by a night (knight).

Why is a lover's heart like the sea-serpent?
Because it is a secreter (sea creeter) of great sighs (size).

Why is a shoemaker like a true lover?
Because he's faithful to the last.

Why is the meeting of lovers like a battle?
Because there is an arm-y presentation.

How would you measure a lover's sincerity?
By his sighs (size).

Why are lovers' sighs like long stockings?
Because they are high hose (heigh ho's).

What is the difference between a lover and his rival?
One kisses the miss, and the other misses the kiss.

Why do lovers indulge in romantic evening rambles?
Because there is a great deal of moonshine in it.

What makes a lover jealous?
The arrival of a—rival.

Why does a man call his sweetheart honey?
Because she is his bee-loved.

What is the difference between a crowd at a circus and an ardent lover?
None, they're both in-tents.

On what grounds may confectioners be called very mercenary lovers?
Because they sell their "kisses."

Why does a woman like to squeeze her lover?
Because the pressure makes him flatter.

Why are lovers like apples?
Because they are often paired.

LUCK

Why should Pope Leo XIII have been a very unlucky man?
Because he was always the thirteenth at table.

LUNACY

What is the oldest lunatic on record?
Time out of mind.

Why is a madman like two men?
Because he is a man beside himself.

Why is the nurse of an insane ward like a popular opera star?
Because everybody's crazy about him.

Why do Gypsies never become insane?
Because they lead no-mad lives.

LYING

When is a man obliged to keep his word?
When no one will take it.

When is it right to lie?
When you are in bed.

What is a bare-faced liar?
One without whiskers.

What did the managing editor say when the horticultural editor said he had cultivated hot-house lilac bushes that attained a height of over fifty feet?
I wish I could lilac (lie like) that.

Why is a man who makes additions to a false rumor like one who has confidence in all that is told to him?
Because he re-lies on all he hears.

Which is the ugliest hood ever worn?
Falsehood.

When does a dead ruler violate the truth?
When he lies in state.

When does a ship tell a falsehood?
When she lies at the wharf.

MAGIC

Why is a trick of legerdemain like declining an offer of marriage?
Because it is a sleight of hand.

MANNERS

What is the keynote to good breeding?
B natural.

Emerson—What key unlocks all doors and all hearts to you?
Good manners.

Why are the legs of an ill-bred fellow like an organ-grinder?
Because they carry a monkey about the streets.

MARRIAGE

Which is the happiest of the united states?
State of matrimony.

Why is it that some men don't marry?
Because they can never be the best man at their own wedding.

Why is a roomful of married people empty?
Because there isn't a single person in it.

Why cannot the man in the moon get married?
Because he gets only a quarter a week, and he needs that to get full on.

What is another reason for the man in the moon not getting married?
Because he is out all night.

What was "Hobson's Choice"?
Mrs. Hobson.

Why should a man named Benjamin marry a girl named Annie?
Because he would be benefited (Benny-fitted) and she would be animated (Annie-mated).

What state produces the most marriages?
The state of matrimony.

Which one of the United States is the largest and most popular?
The state of matrimony.

What unripe fruit does a newly married couple resemble?
A green pear (pair).

What often checks a fast man?
A bridal.

When a fast young man says, "I think I had better marry and settle down," what would you advise instead?
Better stay single and settle up.

Which nation produces the most marriages?
Fascination.

When is it no misfortune for a young lady to lose her good name?
When a young man gives her another name.

What money brings the most substantial interest?
Matrimony.

What kind of money do girls prefer?
Matrimony.

What fish is most valued by a lady happily married?
Her-ring.

What is the hardest money to change or get rid of?
Matri-mony.

Why is a man marrying a second time like *sal volatile?*
Because it's re-wiving.

Why is a man who marries twice like a ship?
Because he has a second mate.

What two ages often prove illusory?
Mir-age and Marri-age.

Why do the recriminations of a married couple resemble the sound of the waves on the seashore?
Because they are the murmurs of the tide (tied).

To what age do most girls wish to attain?
Marri-age.

In what respect is matrimony a game of cards?
Why, a woman has a heart, a man takes it with a diamond, and after that her hand is his.

Why is matrimony like a besieged city?
Because those who are in it wish to be out, and those who are out wish to be in.

At what age should a man marry?
At the parsonage.

Why should a man never marry a woman named Ellen?
Because he rings his own (k)nell.

Why are there more marriages in winter than in summer?
Because the men seek comforters, and the ladies seek muffs.

Why is a newly-married couple like a pair of sugar tongs?
Because they are two spoons joined.

Why does a rich lady act prudently by marrying a penniless man?
Because she husbands her resources.

What word is it which expresses two things we men all wish to get, one bringing the other, but which if we do get them, the one bringing the other, we are unhappy?
Miss-fortune.

Give the positive, comparative, and superlative degrees of the adjective solemn, with illustrations of the meaning of the word?
Solemn, being married; solemner, not being able to get married; solemnest, wanting to be un-married when you are married!

What is the best advice to give to parties about to marry?
Don't!

Why is marriage with a deceased wife's sister like the wedding of two fish?
Because it's a-finny tie (affinity).

What should be the aim in life for all model young men?
To be able to chime in and ring a bell (belle).

MATHEMATICS

What can you add to nine to make it three less?
The letter S (SIX).

Take three away, and five before
Your eyes you see as plain.
Five (V).

What odd number when beheaded becomes even?
Seven.

From a word of five letters take two and leave one.
Al-one.

What word is there of five letters from which if you take two six will remain?
Sixty.

How many pretty girls all in a straight line would it take to reach from Boston to New York, a distance of 232 miles?
Two hundred and thirty-two, because a miss is as good as a mile.

How many peas in a pint?
One p.

A duck before two ducks; a duck behind two ducks; and a duck between two ducks. How many ducks were there?
Three.

How can you divide seventeen apples equally between eleven boys if four of them are very small?
By making them into apple sauce.

When can 125 pounds go for a one-cent stamp?
When the purchaser weighs that much.

Add two figures to 19 and make it less than 20.
19½.

If a cork and a bottle cost $2.10, and the bottle costs $2.00 more than the stopper, what does the stopper cost?
Five cents. Bottle $2.05.

There were sixteen ears of corn in a barrel. A rabbit came each night and carried away three ears. How long did it take him to empty the barrel?
Sixteen nights. (One ear of corn and his own two ears).

If a man should give one son fifteen cents and another ten cents, what time would it be?
A quarter to two.

If one goat ate two low-cut shoes, what would be the telephone number?
182 Oxford (one ate two Oxford-shoes).

A bet that he could eat more oysters than B; A ate ninety in a week, B ate a hundred and one. How many more did B eat than A?
Ten. He ate a hundred and won.

How many sides has a pitcher?
Two, inside and outside.

If a ton of coal costs $6.50 what will a cord of wood come to?
Ashes.

If a pair of andirons cost $7.75, what would a ton of coal come to?
To ashes.

What is the difference between a new five-cent piece and an old-fashioned dime?
Five cents.

What table has not a leg to stand upon?
The multiplication table.

Which is proper to say, 5 plus 4 is 11, or are 11?
Neither; 5 plus 4 are 9.

Three of us in six, and five of us in seven, four of us in nine and six in eleven?
Letters.

If there are five birds in a tree and a hunter kills two of them and they fall down, how many are left in the tree?
None—the rest flew away.

If all the money in the world was divided equally among the people what would each one get?
An equal share.

A woman had five children, half of them were boys, what were the other half?
Boys, too.

From one million subtract 1,000, 1, 50, 50 and 1.
The numbers to be subtracted are represented by M I L L I; take these letters from the word million and you have left the word on, so when the boys told me their remainder, I said: "Guess on, guess on." When they gave it up I said: "I have been telling you the answer; it is 'on.'"

A farmer had twenty sick sheep and one of them died. How many had he left?
Nineteen. In giving this riddle speak the word sick so quickly that it will sound like six.

A man buys a pair of shoes for $3.00 and hands the shoemaker a $10 bill, he goes into the grocery to have it changed; he comes back and gives the man $7.00; when the man has gone the grocer comes in and says, "That was a counterfeit bill you gave me." The shoemaker gives him a good bill; how much has the shoemaker lost?

Seven dollars and the shoes.

When butter is worth twenty cents a pound, what will a ton of coal come to?

Ashes.

Take 9 from 6, 10 from 9, 50 from 40 and leave 6.

S(IX) I(X) X(L).

Why should the number 288 never be named before ladies?

Because it is too (two) gross.

Why is twice ten like twice eleven?

Because twice ten is twenty, and twice eleven is twenty-two (too).

How many sticks go to the building of a crow's nest?

None; they are all carried.

As I went down to St. Ives,
I met seven wives,
Each wife had seven sacks;
Each sack, seven cats;
Each cat, seven kits;
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,
How many went to St. Ives?

One; the rest came from there.

Why is a lame dog like a schoolboy adding six and seven together?

Because he puts down three and carries one.

The minister and his wife, the school-teacher and his daughter, were walking in the grove. They found a bird's nest that contained four eggs. Each of them took out an egg and yet left one in the nest.

There was but one lady, as the minister had married the teacher's daughter.

How many bushels of earth can you take out of a hole that is three feet square and three feet deep?

None. It has all been taken out.

What is the difference between a much-worn ten-cent piece and a quarter?

Fifteen cents.

What is the difference between an old penny and a new dime?

Nine cents.

What is the difference between a new five-cent piece and an old-fashioned quarter?

Twenty cents.

Make five less by adding to it.

IV.

What will five tons of coal come to at $15 a ton and two cords of wood at $8 a cord?

Coal and wood come to ashes.

How many persons can a deaf and dumb man tickle?

He can ges-tickle-eight (gesticulate).

What is the difference between 100 and 1,000?

0 (naught).

If a two-wheeled wagon is a bicycle, and a three-wheeled wagon is a tricycle, what would you call a five-wheeled one?

A V-hicle, of course.

How much earth is in a hole 3¼ x 6½ ft.?

None.

By equal division—I know I am right—
The half of thirteen you'll find to be eight.

$$XIII - \frac{VIII}{AIII} = VIII.$$

There is a girl that works in a candy store in Boston who is 6 feet 6 inches high, has a waist measure of 42 inches and wears a number 9 shoe. What do you think she weighs?

She weighs candy.

From a number that's odd cut off the head,
It then will even be;
Its tail, I pray, take next away:
Your mother then you'll see.

Seven.

Add one to nine and make it twenty.

IX—cross the I, it makes XX.

How many cows' tails would it take to reach from New York to Boston, upon the rule of 11½ inches to the foot, and having all the ground levelled between the two places?

One, if it was long enough!

How many foreigners make a man uncivil?

Forty Poles make one rude (rood).

Place three sixes together, so as to make seven.

6 6/6.

Tell a man to write down, without hesitation, in figures, twelve thousand twelve hundred and twelve dollars?

We hope he will do it correctly. Thus: $13212.

What plant stands number four anywhere?

Ivy (IV).

Which is the greatest number, six dozen dozen or half a dozen dozen?

Why, six dozen dozen, of course; six dozen dozen being 864, and half-a-dozen dozen, 72.

What is the difference between twenty four quart bottles, and four and twenty quart bottles?

56 quarts difference.

What three figures, multiplied by 4, will make precisely 5?

1 1/4, or 1.25.

Which has most legs, a cow or no cow?

No cow has eight legs.

A room with eight corners had a cat in each corner, seven cats before each cat, and a cat on every cat's tail. What was the total number of cats?

Eight cats.

What is the difference between twice twenty-two, and twice two and twenty?

One is forty-four, and the other twenty-four.

What increases its value one-half when turned upside down?

Figure 6.

What single word would you put down for $40 borrowed from you?

XL-lent.

Where is minute street?

60-second street.

If you can buy eight eggs for twenty-six cents, how many can you buy for a cent and a quarter?

Eight.

Dorothy said, "How did I get four people into the show on one ticket?"

I got Dorothy, me, myself and I."

MEASURES

What is there remarkable about a yard-stick?

Though it has no head or tail, it has a foot at each end and one in the middle.

Three feet I have, but ne'er attempt to go,
And many nails thereon, but not one toe.

A yard measure.

Why is a four-quart jar like a lady's side-saddle?

Because it holds a gal-on (gallon).

When is a pint of milk not a pint?

When it's condensed.

What is that which cannot run though it has three feet always?

A yard.

MEDICINES

What kind of medicine does the iceman take?

Pond's Extract.

Why are quinine and gentian like the Germans?

Because they are two tonics (Teutonics).

What did Queen Bess take her pill in?

In cider (inside-her).

What is the difference between a bottle of medicine and a troublesome boy?

One is to be well shaken before taking and the other is to be taken and then shaken.

Why should not ladies and children take castor-oil?

Because it is only intended for working people.

What sort of medicine is most like a sick monkey?

A pill (ape-ill).

MEMORY

When does a man impose upon himself?

When he taxes his memory.

Why are people of short memories necessarily covetous?

Because they're always for-getting something.

Why are persons with short memories like office-holders?

Because they are always for-getting every thing.

MEN

How can you distinguish a fashionable man from a tired dog?

One wears an entire costume, the other wears simply a coat and pants.

Which are the more valuable, women or men?

Men, because they give away brides; but bridegrooms are often sold.

What animal walks on four legs in the morning, two at noon, and three in the evening?

Man creeps on four in the morning of life, then walks on two, and in the evening of life with a cane.

When is a man not a man?

When he is a-shaving.

Why does a minister always say "Dearly beloved brethren" instead of sisters?

Because the brethren embrace the sisters.

Why should the male sex avoid the letter A?

Because it makes men mean.

Why are young men like telescopes?
Because you can draw them out, see through them and shut them up again.

At what time of life may a man be said to belong to the vegetable kingdom?
When long experience has made him sage.

Why is a fretful man like a hard-baked loaf?
Because he is crusty.

Why are men like facts?
Because they are stubborn things.

When does a man cease to become a man?
When he turns into a lane.

Why are some great men like glow-worms?
Because it must be dark when they shine.

Why is a wise man like a lamp-post box?
Because he keeps posted.

When is a man thinner than a lath?
When he is a-shaving.

When is a man not a man?
When he is "a mutt."

When is a fast young man nearest heaven?
When on a lark.

When is a man like a cannon-ball?
When he looks round.

When is a man a muff?
When he holds a lady's hand without squeezing it.

When is a man a spoon?
When he touches a lady's two lips without kissing them.

When is a man like a green gooseberry?
When a woman makes a fool of him.

When is a man like frozen rain?
When he is hale (hail).

What is the difference between a man with an unnatural voice and a woman with unnatural teeth?
One has a falsetto voice, the other has a false-set-o'-teeth.

Why is a man led astray like one governed by a girl?
Because he is miss-led.

When is a man like a little pony?
When he is a little horse (hoarse).

When is a man like an owl?
When he is hooting.

When is a man like a snake?
When he is rattled.

Why is a fellow without whiskers or moustache like an impudent man?
Because he is bare-faced.

When is a man like a cart wheel?
When he is tired.

What is it a man can be that a woman can't?
A father of a large family.

MERIT

Why is Brooklyn Bridge like merit?
Because it is very often passed over.

MESSENGERS

Why is it of no use to employ a barefooted messenger?
Because he goes on a bootless errand.

MICE

What plant is fatal to mice?
Cat-nip.

Why is a mouse like hay?
Because the cat'll (cattle) eat it.

What comes after cheese?
Mice.

MILK

Speaking of milk have you heard of the strange case of the Boston baby brought up on elephant's milk?
It was the elephant's baby.

What is a country-seat?
A milking-stool.

What gives more milk than a cow?
A milk-cart.

What is the difference between a milkmaid and a swallow?
The milkmaid skims the milk, the swallow skims the water.

What sort of a young woman would you like to swallow on a cold day?
A little milk made (milkmaid) hot.

Why is a milkman like a mill-horse?
Because he goes his rounds.

Why is the present moment like skim-milk?
It's scum (come).

Why is buttermilk like something that never happened?
Because it hasn't a curd (occurred).

MIND

What is mind?
No matter.

What is matter?
Never mind.

MINING

Why is a collier the most degraded of men?
Because he is compelled to undermine, to be beneath his fellowmen to get a livelihood, and the works of his hands are only fit to be burnt.

MIRRORS

What should be looked into?
The mirror.

Use me well, and I'm everybody; scratch my back, and I'm nobody.
A looking-glass.

Why is a vain young lady like a confirmed drunkard?
Because neither of them are satisfied with a moderate use of the glass.

Why is a mirror like a very ungrateful friend?
Because, although you may load his back with silver, he will reflect on you.

Why is a costly mirror like a beautiful young lady?
Because each is a splendid looking-lass (looking-glass).

I saw you where you never were,
And where you could not be,
And yet within that very place
Your face I often see.
In the mirror.

Why is a looking-glass very complaisant?
Because it always does as the company does.

MISERS

Why is a miser's charity never to be interfered with?
Because what he gives is nothing to anybody.

What medicine ought to be given to misers?
Anti-mony.

Why is a miserly uncle with whom you have quarreled like a person with a short memory?
Because he is ever for-getting, and never for-giving.

MISSES

What miss is that whose company no one wants?
Mis-fortune.

What misses are those whose days are always unlucky?
Mis-chance, mis-fortune and mis-hap.

What miss is always making blunders?
Mis-take.

What misses are of a very jealous temper?
Mis-give and mis-trust.

MISSIONARIES

Why is a missionary like a pig roasting on a spit?
Because he goes around doing good.

MISTAKES

Why do you always make a mistake when you put on your slipper?
Because you put your foot in it.

MODESTY

Why should a modest person dislike rising very early?
Because he must dress before the sun.

When did the lobster blush?
When he saw the salad dressing.

Why is the blush of modesty like a little girl?
Because it becomes a woman.

MONEY

Why is a dollar bill better than a silver dollar?
Because each time you fold it you double it, and when you open it you find it increases (in creases).

When is money wet?
When it is dew (due) in the morning and mist (missed) in the evening.

What gives a cold, cures a cold and pays the doctor?
A draught.

Why is money like a whip?
Because money makes the mare go.

How does the average Yankee answer the question, "What is the chief end of man?"
Keep all you've got and get all you can.

What money brings the most substantial interest?
Matri-mony.

Although great wealth is said to harden the heart, what is every millionaire sure to be?
A capital fellow.

Why don't foreign noblemen marry poor American girls as well as rich ones?
A poor girl has no principal, hence no interest, and without either she cannot bank account (a count).

What is the height of folly?
Spending your last dollar for a purse.

What books are influenced by hard times?
Pocket-books.

What is the difference between a dime dated 1899 and a new dollar?
Ninety cents.

What is the difference between a dollar bill and a silver quarter?
Seventy-five cents.

Why is the American eagle like the enterprising business man?
Because he is found wherever there is a dollar.

What is the end to which all like to come?
A divid-end.

When may funds be supposed to be unsteady?
When money is "tight."

What is the fruit of finance?
Current coin.

How would you make money go as far as possible?
By giving it to foreign missions.

What is a good way to make money fast?
Put it in a safety deposit box.

If I walk into a room full of people and place a new penny upon the table in full view of the company, what does the coin do?
It looks round.

If you lose a dollar to-day, why would it be a good plan to lose another to-morrow?
So as to make your loss a-gain.

If you see a counterfeit coin on the street why should you always pick it up?
Because you may be arrested for passing it.

How can you learn the value of money?
By trying to borrow some.

Why is a cent like a cow?
Because it has a head and a tail and two sides.

Why is a gooseberry-tart, or even a plum-tart, like a bad dime?
Because it's not currant!

MOON

Why is a half moon heavier than a full moon?
Because a whole moon is lightest.

Which is heavier, a half or a full moon?
The half, because the full moon is as light again.

Why cannot the man in the moon get married?
Because he gets only a quarter a week and he needs that to get full on.

Born at the same time as the world, destined to live as long as the world, and yet never five weeks old?
The moon.

What was it that was only four weeks old when Adam was a boy and not five weeks old when he was a man?
The moon.

Which of the planets have the most specie?
The moon, because she is always changing quarters.

Why is the moon like a marriage contract?
Because it governs the tide (tied).

Why isn't the moon rich?
Because it spends its quarters getting full.

Why is a lance like the moon?
Both are the glory of the knight (night).

What is the action of the moon?
It affects physically the tide, and sentimentally the untied.

What is the value of the moon?
Four quarters.

MORNING

When the day breaks what becomes of the pieces?
They go into mo(u)rning.

MORTGAGES

When a Kansas house is blown away, what is left?
The mortgage.

Why do the cyclones in Kansas blow away so few houses?
The houses are held down by heavy mortgages.

Why are mortgages like burglars?
They secure (seek your) money.

MOSQUITOES

What well-known public singer draws well, but always gives dissatisfaction?
A mosquito.

Down south the mosquitoes are so large that a good many of them weigh a pound; and they sit on the logs and bark when people go by. Can you explain this?
A great many taken together weigh a pound, and they sit on the bark.

MOTHERS

What is the difference between a mother and a barber?
The latter has razors to shave, and the former has shavers to raise.

Which one of the children does the mother love best?
Always the absent one.

Why is a mother who spoils her child like a person building castles in the air?
She indulges in-fancy too much.

Why is a mother rocking her child to sleep liable to arrest?
Because she is engaged in a kid-napping project.

MOTHERS-IN-LAW

If a man should see his mother-in-law in prison, what letter would he think of?
Letter "b" (let 'er be).

If your mother-in-law were to fall overboard, what letter in the alphabet would suit your wishes?
Letter "b."

What is a man that eats his mother-in-law?
Gladiator (glad he ate her).

MOUNTAINS

What is the difference between a mountain and a pill?
One is hard to get up and the other is hard to get down.

MOUSTACHES

How do young ladies show their dislike to moustaches?
By setting their faces against them.

Why is a youth trying to raise a moustache like a cow's tail?
Because he grows down.

MUD

What is the best word of command to give a lady who is crossing a muddy road?
Dress up in front, close (clothes) up behind.

What's the difference between a calf and a lady who lets her dress draggle in the mud?
One sucks milk, the other—unfortunately for her shoes—mucks silk.

MUGS

On what side of the mug is the handle?
Outside.

MUMMIES

What is an extra dry subject?
A mummy.

MURDER

Why is a man in a garret committing murder like a good man?
Because he is above committing a bad action.

Why is a man committing murder like a hen walking across the street?
Because it's a foul proceeding.

MUSIC

Why is the music of an organ grinder considered classical?
It is a production by Handel.

Why does a hand organ remind you of Music without the M?
Because it makes usic of Music.

Which is the better musician, Orpheus or Wagner?
Orpheus, because he made all the animals dance and sing, and Wagner only made one low hen grin (Lohengrin).

Why is a drum like an unruly child?
Because it has to be beaten to do its duty.

What is hard to beat?
A drum with a hole in it.

How can one stir a fire during a concert without disturbing the music?
Do it between the bars.

What musical instrument is the most untrue?
The lyre.

Which musical instrument is the most moral?
An upright piano.

What sort of a tune do we most enjoy?
A fortune made up of bank-notes.

What notes compose the most favorite tunes, and how many tunes do they compose?
Bank notes, they make (four) for-tunes.

When is music like an icy sidewalk?
If you don't C sharp you will B flat.

What word will, if you take away the first letter, make you sick?
Music.

What is the key of good manners?
B-natural.

Why is it vulgar to sing and play by yourself?
Because it is so-lo (so low).

What key in music would make a good officer?
A sharp major.

What composer is most noted of modern times?
Chloroform.

What musical instrument invites you to fish?
Cast-a-net.

When may you be said to imbibe a piano?
When you have a piano for tea (pianoforte).

Why is music cheaper on Sunday than during the week?
Because during the week you get it by the piece, and on Sunday you get it by the choir.

What tune makes everybody glad?
Fortune.

What were the last words of the bugler who was gored by the bull?
"Blow the horns."

Why is a piano like an onion?
Because it's mell-odious (melodious).

Why do pianos bear the noblest characters?
Because they are grand, upright and square.

In what key should a declaration of love be made?
Be mine, ah! (B Minor).

Why is the world like music?
Because it is full of sharps and flats.

What is the difference between an organist and his influenza?
One knows his stops, and the other stops his nose.

If a general should ask in vain for martial music, what word would embody his request?
Conundrum (can none drum)?

Why is a violin like a bank of issue?
Because it gives out notes.

Why is a violin unlike a bank?
Because it never takes back its notes.

Why is an air played by an orchestra like Italian robbers?
Because it is a band ditty.

What is the cheapest way to buy a fiddle?
Buy a little medicine and get a vial in.

Why is a fiddle-maker like an apothecary?
Because he'll send you a vial in.

Why is chloroform like Mendelssohn or Rossini?
Because it is one of the greatest composers of modern times.

Why is a Jew's harp like a good dinner?
Because it makes a man's mouth water.

Why is a poor singer like a counterfeiter?
Because he is an utterer of bad notes.

What part of your ear would be the most essential for a martial band?
The drum.

Why is a fiddle like a man who gives money to make up a quarrel?
Because it is for a-tone-ment.

What musical instrument should we never believe?
A lyre.

What three notes in Hullah's musical notation would brighten up a drawing-room?
So, la, re (solar ray).

Why is a fiddler like a man in a maze?
Because he's at a stand.

Why is a music teacher like a baseball coach?
Because he frequently says, "Try that last run over again."

When is music like vegetables?
When there are two beats (beets) to a measure.

What old bird is like a musical instrument?
A peahen of forty (pianoforte).

When does a musician fail?
When he is unable to discount his notes.

What is the difference between a professional pianoforte player, and the one who hears him?
One plays for his pay, the other pays for his play.

When you listen to a drum why are you a good judge?
Because you hear both sides.

Why is a list of celebrated musical composers like a sauce-pan?
Because it is incomplete without a Handel.

Why is a jailer like a musician?
Because he fingers the keys.

Why is a stupid fellow like G sharp?
Because he is A flat.

What composer's name can you give in three letters?
R D T (Arditi).

What musical instrument has had an honorary degree conferred upon it?
Fiddle D.D. (fiddle-dee-dee).

Why is good music like a medicine not publicly known?
It is no strum (nostrum).

Why are musicians fortunate?
Because when they want a change of air they can change it.

Why does the conductor at a concert resemble the electric telegraph?
Because he beats time.

Pray tell us, what piece of music the Romans, in the time of the early Christians, most enjoyed?
A stab at martyr (stabat mater).

MYSTERIES

Why is the inside of everything mysterious?
Because we can't make it out.

MYTHOLOGY

If all the sea were dried up, what would Neptune say?
I really haven't an ocean (a notion).

Why does Cupid carry an arrow?
Because it is a weapon for the bow (beau).

What did the goddess Io die of?
Io-dide of potassium.

Why is a man searching for the philosopher's stone like Neptune?
Because he is a-seeking (sea-king) what never was.

If Greece had pushed Pan into the Bay of Salamis, what would he have been when he came out?
A dripping pan.

Why is a coach going down a steep hill like St. George?
Because it's always drawn with the drag on.

When does a lady think her husband a Hercules?
When fond of his club.

Why are respectable hotels like the elysium of the gods?
Because no bad spirits are permitted to enter them.

Why are giants like the god of marriage?
Because they are high men (Hymen).

Why is a policeman in a drunken crowd like one of the heathen gods?
Because he is struggling with the Titans (tight 'uns).

Why does a woman residing up two pair of stairs remind you of a goddess?
Because she's a second Floorer (Flora).

Why does hunger sharpen a cat's wit?
Because it makes an Œdipus (a needy puss) of her!

With what do the mermaids tie up their hair?
With a marine band.

What great astronomer is like Venus's chariot?
Her-shell (Herschell).

What hairy Centaur could not possibly be spared from the story of Hercules?
The one that is—Nessus-hairy.

If a young lady were to wish her father to pull her on the river, what classical name might she mention?
You-row-pa (Europa)!

How do we know that Jupiter wore very pinching boots?
Because we read of his struggles with the tight 'uns (Titans).

Why is a wet nurse like Vulcan?
Because she is engaged to wean-us (Venus).

Why is Cupid a poor marksman?
Because he is always making Mrs. (misses).

Why does Father Time carry an hour glass?
Because it takes "sand" to fly as fast as he does.

NAILS

What is it that walks with its head downwards?
A nail in a shoe.

What goes upstairs on their heads?
Nails in your shoes.

Why is a nail fast in the wall like an old man?
Because it is infirm.

NAMES

What is it which, while it is yours alone, is used more by other people than by yourself?
Your name.

Which is bigger, Mr. Bigger or Mr. Bigger's baby?
The baby is a little Bigger.

What Christian name beside Anna reads the same both ways?
Hannah.

There was a man who was not born,
His father was not before him.
He did not live, he did not die.
His epitaph is not o'er him.
A man by the name of Nott.

A pudding-bag is a pudding-bag, and a pudding-bag has what everything else has, what is it?
A name.

Your initials begin with an A.
You've an A at the end of your name,
The whole of your name is an A,
And it's backwards and forward the same.
Anna!

NATURE

What is the best time to study the book of nature?
When autumn turns the leaves.

NAVY

Why are the citizens of Charlestown prohibited from eating peanuts?
For fear they will throw their shells into the Navy Yard.

NECESSITY

Why is necessity like an angry solicitor?
It knows no law.

NEEDLES

How do you spell a good needle?
One with an I (eye) in it.

Why is a needle one of the most persistent of forces?
It always has an eye open for business, and invariably carries its point.

Old Mother Twitchhead had but one eye,
And a long tail, which she let fly;
Every time she went over a gap
She left a bit of her tail in a trap.
A needle and thread.

NEGROES

What rose is born to blush unseen?
Negroes.

Why can negroes be safely entrusted with secrets?
Because they always "keep dark."

Why is a spoonful of vinegar like a negro baby?
Because it is a little bit of vinegar (a little bit of a nigger).

Why does a negro not have the cap on his knee that a white man has?
Because he has his own.

Why is a short negro like a white man?
Because he is not a tall black.

Why is a black woman like a doorway?
Because she is a negress (an egress).

Why is a black man out for a holiday like a bandy-legged man?
Because the negro's out (knee grows out).

Why is a black man necessarily a conjurer?
Because he is a negro-man-sir (necromancer).

A man was seen in Washington just after the storm; one-half of his face was black.
Yes, and so was the other half.

NEWSPAPERS

Why are newspapers reliable?
They lie, then they lie again, or they re-lie, and so are re-li-able.

What is black and white and red all over?
A newspaper.

When is a newspaper like a delicate child?
When it appears weakly (weekly).

What is that which is white, black, and red all over, which shows some people to be green, and makes others look black and blue?
A newspaper.

Why is a newspaper like an army?
Because it has leaders, columns, and reviews.

What is the proper newspaper for invalids?
The Weekly News.

Under what circumstances are a builder and a newspaper reporter equally likely to fail?
When they make up stories without foundations.

What color is a newspaper when you are through with it?
Red.

Why is a newspaper like a lame man?
Because it generally lies.

Why should watermelon be a good name for a newspaper?
Because its insides would really be read.

When is a newspaper the sharpest?
When it is filed.

If you were kissing a young lady, who was very spooney (and a nice, lady-like girl), what would be her opinion of newspapers during the operation?
She wouldn't want any "Spectators," nor "Observers," but plenty of "Times."

Why can't the news from England be fresh?
Because it comes through salt water.

NIGHT

How do you know when night is nigh?
When the t (tea) is taken away.

NOBILITY

What letter in the Dutch alphabet will name an English lady of title?
A Dutch—S.

Why are tongs, poker and shovel like titles of nobility?
They belong to the grate.

Why is a nobleman like a book?
Because he has a title and several pages.

Why does a nobleman's title sometimes become extinct?
Because, though the king can make a man appear (a peer), he can't make him apparent (a parent).

NOISES

What is it that comes with a coach, goes with a coach, is of no use to the coach and yet the coach can't go without it?
A noise.

What is that which by losing an eye has nothing left but a nose?
A noise.

What is that which you can go nowhere without, and yet is of no use to you?
Noise.

What is that we often see made, but never see it after it is made?
A noise.

NORTH POLE

Why is the north pole like an illicit whisky manufactory?
Because it is a secret still.

What chief virtue does the North Pole remind you of?
Just-ice, that's all.

NOSES

Why is your nose in the middle of your face?
Because it's the center (scenter).

What smells the most in a drug store?
The nose.

Why are your nose and chin always at variance?
Because words are constantly passing between them.

What is it that a man, no matter how smart he is, overlooks?
His own nose.

Who is your greatest friend?
Your nose, because it will run for you till it drops.

Why is your nose like St. Paul's?
Because it is flesh and blood.

What is the cheapest feature of the face?
Nostrils, two for a scent (cent).

When is a nose not a nose?
When it is a little radish (reddish).

Why is your nose and your pocket-handkerchief like deadly enemies?
Because they seldom meet without coming to blows.

I seldom speak, but in my sleep;
I never cry, but sometimes weep;
Chameleon-like, I live on air,
And dust to me is dainty fare?
The nose!

What is it which *stands* fast, yet sometimes *runs* fast?
The nose!

Why is the nose on your face like the *v* in "civility"?
Because it's between two eyes!

Why is not your nose 12 inches long?
It would then be a foot.

NOTES

Why is a note of hand like a rosebud?
Because it is matured by falling due (dew).

NOTHING

What is it that is worse than Satan, better than God, the dead eat it, and if we ate it we should surely die?
Nothing.

What is that which has never been felt, seen nor heard, never existed and still has a name?
Nothing.

What does man love more than life,
Hate more than death or mortal strife;
That which contented men desire,
The poor have, and the rich require;
The miser spends, the spendthrift saves,
And all men carry to their graves?
Nothing.

OCEANS

Why is a love of the ocean like curiosity?
It has sent many a boy to sea (see).

Why is a plum-pudding like the ocean?
Because it contains many currants.

What makes the ocean get angry?
It has been crossed so often.

When is water most likely to escape?
When it is only half-tide.

Why is the ocean so restless?
Well, one could hardly expect it to rest easy with so many rocks for its bed.

Why does the ocean moan?
Because a lobster bites its under-tow.

OFFENSE

Why should you never tell a man to take a back seat?
Because, if you do, he'll be likely to take af-front.

OFFICIOUSNESS

Why is a man standing on a fishmonger's shop like a busy meddling fellow?
Because he is over a fish-house (officious).

OLD MAIDS

Why do old maids wear mittens?
To keep off the chaps.

What consolation has a homely girl?
She will be a pretty old one if she lives long.

What is that which is always ready, but never wanted?
An old maid.

Why is an old maid like a wilted apple?
Because she is hard to pair.

Why do old maids go to church early?
To be there when the "hims" are given out.

When is an old maid like a cigar?
When you have no match for it.

Why ought spinsters to stop at home in fine weather?
Because—to say nothing of its spoiling their complexions—"Society" does not approve of their having a little sun an' air until they are married!

Why are old maids the most charming of all people?
Because they are matchless.

Why are unmarried women called Miss?
Because they have been missed by Cupid's arrows.

ORATORS

When does a public speaker steal lumber?
When he takes the floor.

Why is a windy orator like a whale?
Because he often rises to spout.

Why does an orator resemble a pawnbroker?
Because he lives by spouting.

ORPHANS

What is a man that eats his father and mother?
An orphan.

PAIN

What pain do we make light of?
Window pane.

Those who take me improve, be their task what it may,
Those who have me are sorrowful through the long day;
I am hated alike by the foolish and wise,
Yet without me none ever to eminence rise.
Pains.

PAINT

What coat is finished without buttons and put on wet?
A coat of paint.

PAPER

Why is paper like a beggar?
Because it is composed of rags.

What kind of paper tells you who you are?
Tissue ('tis you).

PARENTS

Why is a father who frequently thrashes his boy likely to be prosecuted?
Because he exerts undue influence in the making of a will.

PAWNBROKERS

Why are pawnbrokers pioneers of progress?
They are always ready to make an advance.

Why is a pawnbroker like a drunkard?
Because he takes the pledge but cannot always keep it.

What is the meaning of three balls in front of a pawn office?
Two to one that the things will never be redeemed.

Why are pawnbrokers like sisters of mercy?
Because they take great interest in serving the poor.

PENCILS

I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case from which I am never released, and yet I am used by nearly everybody.
A pencil.

Why is a lead pencil like a perverse child?
Because it never does write (right) by itself.

PENS

Why is a man who makes pens a wicked man?
Because he makes men steel (steal) pens and then says they do write (right).

What pen should never be used in writing?
A sheep pen.

What is the definition of a quill?
Something taken from the pinion of a goose to spread the 'pinions of another.

PEOPLE

Why is a human being like an earthen jug?
Because both are made of clay.

What is that which the dead and living do at the same time?
They go round with the world?

Why is the human race like an auctioneer's goods?
Because they are always going, going, gone.

PERFUME

Why is attar of roses never moved without orders?
Because it is scent wherever it goes.

PERJURY

Why is a false oath like a trial in the criminal court?
Because it is per-jury.

PERSEVERANCE

What nation has always overcome in the end?
Determination.

What is the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?
One arises from a strong "will," the other from a strong "won't."

PHOTOGRAPHS

What is the difference between photographs and the whooping cough?
The first make fac-similes, and the latter sick families.

Why are photographers the most uncivil of all tradespeople?
Because when we make application for a copy of our portrait, they always reply with a "negative."

Why is photography antagonistic to portrait-painting?
Because it is a foe-to-graphic art.

Why is a photograph like a member of Congress?
Because it's a representative.

Is there anything a man with a kodak cannot take?
Yes, a hint.

PHYSIOGNOMY

Why are authors who treat of physiognomy like soldiers?
Because they "write about face."

PIANOS

Why do pianos bear the noblest characters?
Because they are grand, upright and square.

PICTURES

Why should you be justified in picking the pockets of a vender of engravings?
Because he has pict-ures (picked yours).

Why is a portrait like a member of Congress?
It is a representative.

PIES

What is the best thing to put into pies?
Your teeth.

What will make pies inquisitive?
S' will make spies of them.

PIGS

Why is a pig one of the most wonderful animals in the farmyard?
Because it is killed and then cured.

Why is a pig in the parlor like a house on fire?
The sooner it's put out the better.

What makes more noise than a pig caught under a fence?
Two pigs.

Why is a pig a paradox?
Because it is killed first and cured afterwards.

What animal has death no effect on?
The pig, when you kill him you cure him, and thus save his bacon.

What sort of a cravat would a hog use?
A pig's tie.

What is a pig doing when he is eating?
He is making a hog of himself.

What is the greatest eyesore in a farm yard?
A pig-sty.

Why is a pig's brain larger than any other animal's?
Because he has a hog's head full.

Why are hogs like trees?
Because they root for a living.

When does a pig become landed property?
When he is turned into a meadow.

When would a farmer have the best opportunity for overlooking his pigs?
When he has a sty in his eye.

Why are hogs more intelligent than humans?
Because they nose (knows) everything.

Why is a pig the most provident of all animals?
Because he always carries a spare-rib about him.

If a man met a crying pig what animal would he call him?
(Pork you pine) porcupine.

What is the difference between stabbing a man and killing a hog?
One is assaulting with intent to kill, and the other killing with intent to salt.

PILLOWS

What is higher without the head than with the head?
A pillow.

What thing is it that is lower with a head than without one?
A pillow.

What is higher and handsomer when the head is off?
A pillow.

PINCHING

Adam and Eve and Pinch me went down to the river to bathe. Adam and Eve were drowned and who do you think was saved?
Pinch me. When your friend says pinch me, you must do so.

PINS

Why is a bad pin like a broken lead pencil?
Because it has no point.

What benefit can be derived from a paper of pins?
It will give you many good points.

What becomes of all the pins?
They fall to the earth, and become terra-pins.

PITCHERS

How many sides has a pitcher?
Two, inside and outside.

PITY

Why is a man lifting a side of bacon off a hook to be pitied?
Because he is a poor creature (pork reacher).

PLAGIARISM

Why are plagiarists like seashore lodging-house keepers with newly married couples?
Because they are accustomed to sea-side dears (seize ideas), and to make the most out of them that is possible.

What kind of a pen does the plagiarist use?
Steel.

PLANTS

When is a plant like a hog?
When it begins to root.

Which is the laziest plant, and which the most active?
The creeper and the running vine.

Why is ivy climbing a tree like a Waterbury watch?
Because it's a stem-winder.

What plant is fatal to mice?
Cat-nip.

What berry reminds us of a lady's finger?
A thimble berry.

What plant would be the warmest shelter?
Furze (furs).

PLOWING

Why is a plowed field like feathered game?
Because it's part-ridges.

Why is a farmer guiding a plow like a steamship in mid-ocean?
Because one sees the plow while the other plows the sea.

POCKETS

When may a man's pocket be empty and yet have something in it?
When it has a hole in it.

POETS

What prescription is best for a poet?
A composing draught.

Why are poets like children's toys?
Because they are given to a (muse) and indulge in fancy (infancy).

Why is the aspiring poet about to approach an editor with his verses like a consumptive?
Because he's going into a decline.

POLICE

Why are not fares collected from policemen on street cars?
Because you can't take a nickel from a copper.

When are the police stationed on the City Hall lawn?
When the grass begins to shoot.

What is invisible blue?
A policeman when he is wanted.

Why is a policeman like a rainbow?
Because he rarely appears until the storm is over.

Why are policemen like the days of man?
Because they are numbered.

Why is electricity like the police when they are wanted?
Because it is an invisible force.

What tricks are most common among New York policemen?
Patricks.

What is the difference between a special constable and an old hat?
One's sworn in; the other's worn out.

Why is a policeman on his beat like an Irishman rolling down a hill?
Because he's patroling (Pat rolling).

Why do policemen never catch the thieves they watch for?
Because they are waiting for marauders (more orders).

What does a yawning policeman resemble?
An open-faced watch.

Why is a street lamp better than a policeman?
A street lamp is always on post and never on the beat; but a policeman is never on post, but always on the beat.

What root are policemen most familiar with? ("*Ask* a policeman.")
The beat route (beet-root).

Why are policemen seldom run over?
Because they are never in the way!

What is behind a star?
A policeman.

POLITICS

Why should unmarried ladies never be elected to office?
Because there would be a misrule (miss rule).

What is the difference between a church bell and a politician?
One peels from the steeple and the other steals from the people.

Burdette—What man never gets excited in the political campaign?
The carpenter, for he always keeps his spirit level.

What is the favorite fruit of politicians?
Plums.

Why was a defeated candidate after the late election like the earth?
Because he was flattened at the poles.

What is political economy?
Splitting your vote.

Why is a discredited politician like an unpopular dentist?
Because each has lost his pull.

Why are persons with short memories like office-holders?
Because they are always for-getting everything.

When is a turkey like a ballot-box?
When it is stuffed.

Why are lobsters like many politicians?
Because they change color when they get into hot water.

PORTERS

When does the hotel boy become a porter?
When he reaches the lugg-age.

PORTRAITS

What is that which becomes too young the longer it exists?
A portrait.

What is taken from you before you get it?
Your portrait.

POSITIVENESS

Which is the most positive word?
Certain.

POSTAGE

When can 125 pounds go for a one cent stamp?
When the purchaser weighs that much.

What sticketh closer than a brother?
A postage stamp, by gum.

Why is a sheet of postage stamps like distant relatives?
Because they are but slightly connected.

Why is a postage stamp like an obstinate donkey?
Because the more you lick it the more it sticks.

POSTMEN

Take away my first letter; take away my second letter; take away all my letters, and I remain the same.
Postman.

Why is a postman in danger of losing his way?
Because he is guided by the directions of strangers.

What profession is a postman?
He is a man of letters.

How would it work if all the post-offices were in charge of women?
It would work so well that the males would arrive and depart every hour of the day.

POSTS

When does a post resemble a seed?
When used to prop-a-gate.

POULTRY

How is a poultry dealer compelled to earn his living?
By fowl means.

When is a fowl's neck like a bell?
When it is rung for dinner.

Why were Queen Victoria's poultry quarrelsome?
Because they were Vic's hens (vixens).

Where does the captain of a ship keep his poultry?
In the hatchway.

Why is a goose like an elephant's trunk?
Because it grows down.

POVERTY

How can a poor man be equal to a millionaire in station?
When both are at a railroad station.

Where should you feel for the poor?
In your pocket.

POWDER

What's the difference between a soldier and a belle?
One faces the powder and the other powders the face.

PRAIRIES

Why are the western prairies flat?
Because the sun sets on them every night.

PREACHERS

What should a minister preach about?
About half an hour.

Why does a preacher have an easier time than a doctor or a lawyer?
It is easier to preach than to practice.

Why is divinity the easiest of all professions?
Because it is easier to preach than to practice.

Who may marry many a wife, and yet live single all his life?
A clergyman.

Why does the average preacher need no umbrella in going to his church on a rainy Sunday?
He will be dry when he gets into the pulpit.

What is the favorite fruit of ministers?
Pears (bridal).

What is a very frequent mistake clergymen make in their sermons?
Their being too long.

Pray tell me, ladies, if you can,
Who is that highly favored man,
Who though he has married many a wife,
May still live single all his life?
A clergyman.

Who is the most popular preacher?
Jack in the pulpit. Why? *Because he is silent.*

Why are bishops like superannuated washerwomen?
Because they wear lawn dresses (were laundresses).

Why can no clergyman have a wooden leg?
Because, although a chaplain may be a plain chap, a parson can't be a lame un (layman).

Why are clergymen like brakemen?
Because they do a great deal of coupling.

Why is a sporting clergyman like a soldier who runs from a battle?
Because he departs from his sphere of action (fear of action).

When is a man's pastor really and truly his brother?
When he's his pa's son (parson).

Why does a hen never preach?
Because she belongs to the lay element.

Why is a chicken served to a minister like a theological student?
Because it is about to enter the ministry.

Why should a minister be believed?
Because he is nearly always accurate (a curate).

Why is a correct knowledge of grammar indispensable to young clergymen?
Because it leads to a(c)curacy.

Why cannot a Bishop eat his own apron?
Because it goes against his stomach.

Why is a prosy preacher like the middle of a wheel?
Because the felloes (fellows) around it are tired.

Why would it be hard on ministers to preach without notes?
Because their families would suffer without the greenbacks.

Why are some ministers worse than Brigham Young?
Because they have married more women than they can support, and would like to marry more.

Why is a Divinity student like a merchant?
Because he studies the prophets (profits).

Why are clergymen like cabinet-makers when performing the marriage ceremony?
Because they are joiners.

Why is a clergyman's horse like a king?
Because he is guided by a minister.

PRECIOUS STONES

What precious stone is like the entrance to a field?
A-gate.

PRESIDENTS

Why is the President like "America"?
Because he is the national him (hymn).

Why is the position of President of the United States like a back tooth?
Because it is hard to fill.

Of what trade are all the presidents?
Cabinet makers.

PRICES

Why does a stingy German like mutton better than venison?
Because he prefers "zat vich is sheep to zat vich is deer."

PRIDE

Why is a monument like a proud man?
It is lofty.

When does a lady find herself more exalted than her friends?
When she is living a story higher.

PRINTERS

Why should the proof-reader of a printing establishment be considered the best read man going?
Because there's proof that he reads every hour of the day.

When is a compositor like a bad fire?
When he requires a coal on (:).

Who handles more letters in a day than one of Uncle Sam's post-office employees?
A typesetter.

PRISONS

Why is a man just imprisoned like a boat full of water?
Because he requires bailing out.

Why don't persons improve when in prison?
Because the whole thing is more or less a sell (cell).

Why is an invalid cured by sea-bathing like a confined criminal?
Because he is sea-cured (secured).

What is the longest sentence known to history?
Sentence for life.

When the President pardons a convict, what grammatical rule does he illustrate?
He puts a period to a sentence.

Why is an acquitted prisoner like a gun?
Because he is discharged.

PROMISES

What is it that you give away all of it and can still keep all of it?
Your promise.

PROMPTNESS

What man is born with three hands?
The man who gets a right hand, a left hand and a little behind hand.

PRONUNCIATION

What word is pronounced wrong by the best scholars?
Wrong, of course.

PROPOSING

What kind of essence does a young man like when he pops the question?
Acquiescence.

If a mercenary man were to ask a girl to marry, what flower would he name?
Any money (anemone).

Why is a bashful lover like pop corn?
He turns white when he pops.

What did the sunbeam say to the violet?
"Wilt thou?" And she wilted.

Why is a proposal like the first conviction for drunkenness?
Because it is a short sentence which generally leads to a long one.

What is a young lady who refuses you?
Two no-ing by half.

In what key should a declaration of love be made?
Be mine, ah! (B minor).

Why is an accepted suitor like a person guilty of a crime?
Because he ought to be transported.

When are words musical?
When they have a ring to them.

When is a young lady like an acrobat?
When she shows her sleight of hand—by refusing you!

PROSPERITY

Why is a fortunate man like a straw in the water?
Because he goes on swimmingly.

PRUDENCE

Why is a prudent man like a pin?
Because his head prevents him from going too far.

PRUDERY

When a prudish young lady has occasion to speak of a legacy, what should she call it?
Limb-acy.

PUMPS

Up and down, up and down, touching neither sky nor ground.
Pump handle.

PUNCTUATION

How can you by a mere change of punctuation turn mirth into crime?
By making man's laughter manslaughter.

PUNS

At what time is a pun most effective?
When it strikes one.

A man went to the top of his barn to catch a stork that had a nest there; while he was on the roof the ladder fell to the ground. What is his easiest way to get down?
He can pick down from the stork.

When was wit a father?
When a pun becomes apparent (a parent).

Why is a good pun like a good cat?
Because it requires pause (paws).

A man and goose once went up in a balloon together, the balloon burst and they landed on a church steeple, how did the man get down?

Plucked the goose.

If a man gets up on a donkey, where does he get down from?

A swan's breast.

Why is a bad pun like a broken pencil?

Because it has no point.

What is the difference between a king's son, a monkey's mother, a bald head, and an orphan?

A king's son is the heir-apparent, a monkey's mother is a hairy parent, a bald head has no hair apparent, and an orphan has nary a parent.

What is the difference between stabbing a man and killing a hog?

One is assaulting with intent to kill; the other is killing with intent to salt.

What is the difference between the Milky Way and a room full of great-grandfathers?

One is a lot of pale stars, the other a lot of stale pas.

What word of four syllables represents Sin riding on a little animal?

Sin-on-a-mouse (Synonymous).

Why, in moving from a house, ought you to leave the washhand basins behind?

Because they are not ewers (yours).

PURSES

Why is an empty purse expressive of constancy?

Because you find no change in it.

QUARRELING

Why is a quarrel like a bargain?

Takes two to make it.

If I were to bite off the end of your nose what would the magistrate compel me to do?

Keep the peace (piece).

When people are quarreling out of doors, what should they do?
Co-in-side (go inside).

QUESTIONS

Which is the oddest fellow, the one who asks a question or the one who answers?
The one who asks, because he is the querist.

What question is that to which you positively must answer yes?
What does y-e-s spell?

Why am I the most peculiar person in the company?
Because I am the querist (queerest).

RACING

Why is horse racing a necessity?
Because it is a matter of course.

Why is it impossible that there should be a best horse on a race-course?
Because there is always a better.

What sort of a day would be good for running for a cup?
A muggy day.

Why is a race at a circus like a big conflagration?
Because the heat is in tents (intense).

What is the difference between a horse who being entered for a race, is withdrawn, and one who starts in a race and is beaten?
One fails to start, and the other starts to fail.

What is the difference between horse-racing and going to church?
One makes men bet, the other makes him better.

RADIOS

What modern invention is like a voice from the other world?
The radio.

RAILROADS

Why are railroads social benefactors?
Because they teach a man to know his station and to stop there.

What is that which goes from Boston to Providence without once moving?
The railroad.

What motive had the inventor of railroads in view?
A loco-motive.

What railroad accident is an everyday occurrence?
Running over frogs.

Why is a railroad exceedingly patriotic?
It is bound to the country with the strongest ties.

Why does a railway official cut a hole in your ticket?
To let you through.

What goes all the way from Boston to Milwaukee without moving?
The railroad tracks.

Why is a high rate of fare on a railroad like an overloaded gun?
Because it is too much for a charge.

Why is the road-bed laborer on a railroad like a hunted bear in the mountains?
Because he makes tracks for his life.

Why are railways like laundresses?
Because they have "ironed" the world, and occasionally done a little "mangling."

RAIN

When does the rain become too familiar to a lady?
When it begins to pat her (patter) on the back.

What is the best weather for haymaking?
When it rains pitchforks.

Instead of complaining when it rains we should do as they do in Spain, and what is that?
Let it rain.

When is the worst weather for rats and mice?
When it rains cats and dogs.

Why are heavy showers like heavy drinkers?
Because they usually begin with little drops.

When are the streets of a town most greasy?
When the rain is dripping.

What heavenly thing and what earthly thing does a rainy day most effect?
The sun and your boots, takes the shine from both.

REAL ESTATE

Why is a real estate man not a man of words?
Because he is a man of deeds.

RECEPTIONS

Define a reception in four words beginning with "g."
Giggle, gabble; gobble, git!

RECORDS

Why are records brittle things?
Because they can't be lowered without breaking.

RELATIVES

If your uncle's sister is not your aunt, what relation is she to you?
She is your mother?

A man remarks, looking at a portrait, "Uncles and brothers have I none, but that man's father is my father's son." What relation is the original of the portrait to the speaker?
His son.

What relation is that child to its father, who is not his father's own son?
His daughter.

A blind beggar had a brother and the brother died; the man that died had no brother.
The beggar was a woman.

A man asked permission of the warden to visit a prisoner. The warden asked: "Are you related to the prisoner?" He replied: "This man's father is my father's son." What relation is he?
He is the prisoner's father.

How can a man be his own grandfather?

Smith had a son John; John married a widow who had a grown daughter; old Smith married the daughter, and so he became John's son; but John's father must be grandfather to John's son, therefore Smith is grandfather to himself.

How many of your relations live on your property?

Ten-aunts (tenants).

If Dick's father is Tom's son, what relation is Dick to Tom?

Tom is his grandfather.

If a young lady fell into a well why couldn't her brother help her out?

Because, how could he be a brother and assist her (a sister) too?

Who were your grandfather's first cousin's sister's daughter's brother's forefathers?

Why, your aunt's sisters (ancestors).

What relation is a door mat to a door step?

A "step farther."

It wasn't my sister, nor my brother, but still was the child of my father and mother; who was it?

Myself.

Why are poor relations like fits of the gout?

Because the oftener they come the longer they stay.

When does a son not take after his father?

When his father leaves him nothing to take.

How many fathers has a man?

Nine: his father, his godfather, his father-in-law, his two grandfathers, and his fore- (four) fathers.

In law courts what relation are the judges, sergeants and counsellors to each other?

They are brothers—brothers-in-law.

Why is marriage with a deceased wife's sister like the wedding of two fish?

Because it's a-finny-tie (affinity).

Two men, with their two wives and two sons, stand thus related to each other: the men are each other's fathers and sons, their wives' fathers and husbands, and their children's fathers and grandfathers;

the women are the children's mothers and sisters, and the boys are uncles to each other. How can this be, and yet the parties be lawfully married?

The two men had been widowers, and married each other's daughters.

Why is a son who objects to his mother's second marriage like an exhausted pedestrian?

Because he can't go a step farther.

Two brothers, A and B, walking in Broadway, met three charming little fair-haired, prattling children: "I must speak to those children," said A, "they are my nephews and nieces." "Ah!" said B, "as I have no nephews and nieces, I shall walk on." How was this?

They were B's children!

Which of your parents is your nearest relation?

Your mother, of course. Is not the other "farther"?

RELIGION

What is the policy of religion?

Insurance against fire in the other world.

Why is a man who believes in God like one who denies His existence?

He is a-theist.

REMARKS

What do we often catch yet never see?

A passing remark.

RENT

What is the difference between a tenant and the son of a widow?

The tenant has to pay rents, but the son of a widow has not two pa-rents.

What affections do landlords most appreciate?

Parental (pay-rental).

What is there about a house that seldom falls, but never hurts the occupant when it does?

The rent.

Why should a broken-hearted single young man lodger offer his heart in payment to his landlady?
Because it is rent.

RESOLUTIONS

Why is a good resolution like a fainting lady at a ball?
Because it ought to be carried out.

Why is a resolution like a looking glass?
Because it is so easily broken.

RIDDLES

Why is a person reading these conundrums like a man condemned to undergo a military execution?
Because he is pretty sure to be riddled to death.

Which is the greatest riddle?
Life, for we all have to give it up.

Victor Hugo said, "Man was the riddle of the eighteenth century." But what is the riddle of the nineteenth century?
Woman, we can't guess her, but we'll never give her up.

When is a conundrum least like a young lady?
When it is not all a-miss.

What is that which every one thinks of in telling a conundrum and every one thinks of in hearing it?
The answer.

Why are riddles which cannot be answered like a man disappointed by his visitors?
Because there is a host put out and not one guest (guessed).

What is that which is often given you, which you never have, yet which you often give up?
A conundrum.

What have you now before you which would give you a company, a veiled lady, and a noisy toy?
Co-nun-drum.

Why is a conundrum like a parrot?
It is far-fetched and full of nonsense.

Why is a young man that kisses a young lady twice a riddle-maker?

Because he makes a re-buss.

Why is a riddle guessed by a father impossible to be guessed by any other member of the family?

Because it is Pa's finding out.

What is the difference between a riddle and a man's aunt that squints?

One is a query with an answer, and the other an aunt, sir, with a queer eye.

RIDING

What is men's opinion of riding skirts?

They are divided.

Why is a side-saddle like a four-quart measure?

Because it holds a gall-on.

Why is a man who is approaching a lamp like a person about to get off a horse?

He is going to a light.

Why is a man riding swiftly up hill like one who presents a young lady with a young dog?

He gives a gallop up (gal a pup).

Why is a man taking a hedge at a single bound like one snoring?

Because he does it in his-leap (his sleep).

Why is riding fast up a steep ascent like a female dog suffering pain?

Because it's a gal pup ill (gallop up hill).

What is it that has two hands, one tail, four legs on one side and two on the other?

A woman on horseback.

Why does a stage driver seem fonder of grief than any other man?

Because he is always "crying" to his horses "Wo! wo!"

We travel much, yet pris'nors are,
And close confined to boot;
We with the swiftest horse keep pace,
Yet always go on foot?
A pair of spurs.

RINGS

What is a ring?
A hole with a rim around it.

Why is a circle of gold like the sound of a bell?
It is a ring.

RIVERS

What is that which has a mouth, but never speaks; a bed, but never sleeps?
A river.

I often murmur, but never weep;
Always lie in bed, but never sleep.
My mouth is larger than my head,
And much discharges, though never fed;
I have no feet, yet swiftly run;
The more falls I get, move faster on.
A river.

When is a river not a river?
When it is eye-water ('igh water).

ROADS

What is it that runs all the way between two towns and never moves?
A road.

What is that which goes up the hill and down the hill, and yet stands still?
The road.

When are roads like corpses?
When they are men-ded.

What is that which, when you are going over the White Mountains, goes up-hill, and down-hill, and all over everywhere, yet never moves?
The road.

ROOFS

What roof never keeps out the wet?
The roof of the mouth.

What's all over the house?
The roof.

What roof covers the most noisy tenant?
The roof of the mouth.

ROOMS

What is the smallest room in the world?
The mush-room.

What is the largest room in the world?
Room for improvement.

ROPES

When is a rope like a child at school?
When taught.

ROYALTY

Why is Buckingham Palace the cheapest piece of property in England?
Because it was bought for a crown and kept up by a sovereign.

Who dares sit before the Queen with his hat on?
The coachman.

What is majesty deprived of its externals?
(M) a jest (Y).

Who is the most polished king in the world?
Blacking.

When is a piece of wood like a queen?
When it is made into a ruler.

Why is a clergyman's horse like a king?
Because he is guided by a minister.

What is the difference between the Prince of Wales and the water in a fountain?
One is heir to the throne, the other thrown to the air.

Why is a large kingdom like a brown study?
Because it's a roomy nation.

Why is the Prince of Wales like a cloudy day?
He is likely to reign (rain).

What is the difference between an Emperor and a beggar?
One issues manifestoes and the other manifests toes without his shoes.

What ruler waits on his people?
The King of Servia.

Which are the two kings that reign in America?
Smo-king and soa-king.

RUGS

Why is a dirty rug like a bad boy?
Because both need beating.

RULERS

When is a piece of wood like a queen?
When it is made into a ruler.

SAILORS

When is a sailor like a corpse?
When he is in the shrouds.

Why does a mariner need a great deal of sand?
Because he scours the sea.

Why should a sailor be the best authority as to what goes on in the moon?
Because he has been to sea (see).

When is a sailor not a sailor?
When he's a-board.

When is a sailor not himself?
When he is a-board.

Why are sailors bad horsemen?
Because they ride on the main (mane).

What is the difference between a sailor and a soldier?
One tars his ropes, the other pitches his tent.

What wind would a hungry sailor prefer?
One that blows fowl and chops about.

Why do sailors working in brigs make bad servants?
Because it is impossible for a man to serve two mast-ers well.

When is a sailor like a beach?
When he is a-shore.

What's the difference between a sailor and a prize fighter?
One is lashed to the mast and the other is mashed to the last.

What proves sailors to be very careless?
They are in a "mess" every day at sea.

Why should a sailor be a good pugilist?
Because he is always boxing the compass.

Why are sailors in a leaky vessel like dancing masters?
They depend on their pumps.

When is a sailor not a sailor?
When he is aloft.

What is the difference between a blind man and a sailor in prison?
One cannot see to go and the other cannot go to sea.

SANTA CLAUS

Why does Santa Claus always go down the chimney?
Because it suits (soots) him.

SARCASM

What chasm often separates friends?
Sar-casm.

SATISFACTION

How can you always have what you please?
If you will be pleased with what you have.

Why is a very discontented man easily satisfied?
Because nothing satisfies him.

SCALES

Unable to think, unable to speak, yet tells the truth to all the world?

A true balance, or pair of scales.

Hooked, crooked, notched and straight.

A steel yard.

SCANDAL

Why is the letter W like scandal?

Because it makes ill will.

Why is tallow like a busy body?

Because it makes scandals.

SCHOOLS

What insect frequents district schools?

The spelling bee.

What is the Board of Education?

The schoolmaster's shingle.

How does one feel who has been kept after school for bad spelling?

Spellbound.

What is the difference between a fisherman and a lazy schoolboy?

One baits his hook, the other hates his book.

Why is a naughty schoolboy like a postage-stamp?

Because you lick him with a stick and stand him in the corner.

When is a school boy like a postage-stamp?

When he is licked and put in a corner to make him stick to his letters.

What is the difference between an engine-driver and a school master?

One minds the train and the other trains the mind.

What is the difference between a person late for the train and a school-mistress?

One misses the train; the other trains the misses.

Why is a person with his eyes closed like a defective schoolmaster?
He keeps his pupils in darkness.

Why is a school-boy being flogged like your eye?
Because he's a pupil under the lash.

When is a schoolmaster like a man with one eye?
When he has a vacancy for a pupil.

Why is a schoolmistress like the letter C?
Because she forms lasses into classes.

Why are dogs and cats like schoolmasters and their pupils?
Because one is of the canine (canin'), the other of the feline (feelin') species.

What is the difference between a bright scholar and shoe polish?
One shines at the head, the other at the foot.

Why is a schoolmaster like a grindstone?
Because he sharpens other people's blades and gets worn out in the operation.

Why is education like a tailor?
Because it forms our habits.

SCISSORS

What is that which divides by uniting and unites by dividing?
Scissors.

SCOTCH

Come a riddle, come a tiddle, come a rot, tot, tot;
Come a wee, wee man with a red, red coat,
A staff in his hand and a bane in his throat;
If you tell me that, I'll give you a groat.
A cherry.

As I was crossing Bothwell bridge, I met George Bewinning.
I cut off his head and drank his blood, and left his body standing.
A bottle of wine.

When is a Scotchman like a donkey?
When he strolls along his banks and braes.

When I went through the garden gap who should I meet but Dick Redcap, with a stone in his head and a stem in his throat. Now guess this riddle and I'll give you a groat.

Cherry.

SCULPTURE

Why is a sculptor's death the most terrible?

Because he makes faces and "busts."

Why is Hiram Powers, the sculptor, one of the cheekiest men that ever lived?

Because he unblushingly sent to be exhibited a poor "Greek Slave," whom he had chiselled out of all her clothes.

What trade should one follow in order to cut a figure in the world?

A sculptor.

Why is the Apollo Belvidere like a piece of new music?

Because it's a new ditty in its tone (a nudity in stone).

What are the most patient objects in the shape of humanity?

Statues.

SEAS

Why should the sea make a better housekeeper than the earth?

Because the earth is always dirty and the sea is always tide-y (tidy).

Which is the best sea for a sailor to be in when there is a gale?

A-dri-atic.

Of what religious persuasion—if any—is the sea?

A Quaker—for has it not a broad brim?

What sea is most traveled by clever intellectual people?

Brilliancy.

SEASICKNESS

Why is the food one eats on an ocean steamer like a difficult conundrum?

Because one is obliged to give it up.

What is the difference between an auction and seasickness?

One is the sale of effects, and the other the effects of a sail.

What is the latest prescription for seasickness?
Bolt your food down.

What was the captain's order when all of the passengers were heaving?
For the ship to heave to.

Why are seasick excursionists like a strong opposition in Congress?
Because they are opposed to the motion.

SEASONS

Why are the days long in summer and short in winter?
Because heat expands things and cold contracts them.

If a man attempts to jump a ditch and falls, why is he likely to miss the beauties of summer?
Because the fall follows right after the spring, unless he makes a summer-set between them.

What is the best way to kill time in the winter?
Sleigh (slay) it.

How is it that summer goes so quickly?
Because there is so often an evening mist.

Which of the four seasons is the most literary?
Autumn, for then the leaves are turned, and they are red (read).

SECRETS

Why should a man never tell his secrets in a cornfield?
Because there are so many ears there, and they would be shocked.

What is that which is too much for one, enough for two, but nothing at all for three?
A secret.

In what color should a secret be kept?
Inviolate (in violet).

Why should you never write a secret with a quill-pen?
Because it is apt to split.

What burns to keep a secret?
Sealing-wax.

Why should you never confide a secret to your relatives?
Because blood will tell.

When are secrets like the sails of a ship?
When they get wind.

Why should secrets not be told in a vegetable garden?
Because the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, and the beans stalk about there.

SEEDS

Why are seeds when sown like gate-posts?
Because they propagate (prop a gate).

SEEING

Where have you the most extended view?
In a hop-garden, for then you see from pole to pole.

SELF

Which is the greatest number?
Number one, oneself.

SELF-DEFENSE

Why is the science of self-defense like low tide?
It develops the muscles.

SENSE

What common thing is very uncommon?
Common-sense.

Why would a sixth sense become a bore?
Because it would be a new sense (nuisance).

What is that of which the common sort is the best?
Sense.

SERMONS

Why are people very generous when they hear a sermon?
They give it all away.

When is a sermon like a round shot?
When it comes from a canon's mouth.

Why is asparagus like most sermons?
Because it is the end of it that people enjoy most.

SERVANTS

Why is a butler like a mountain?
Because he looks down on the valley (valet).

Why is a sleepy servant like a warming pan?
Because he's in bed before his master.

Why is a stupid servant like a church bell?
He has to be often told (tolled).

Who is the man who carries everything before him?
The footman.

Why is a man with a great many servants like an oyster?
Because he's eat out of house and home.

Why has a chambermaid more lives than a cat?
Because each morning she returns to dust.

When does the hotel boy become a porter?
When he has reached the lugg-age.

SEWING

Why does a dressmaker never lose her hooks?
Because she has an eye to each of them.

What is the difference between a farmer and a seamstress?
One gathers what he sows, the other sews what she gathers.

How do seamstresses resemble rascals?
They cut and run.

SHADOWS

Though I dance at a ball, yet am I nothing at all.
A shadow.

What is that that nothing is and yet it has a name?
A shadow.

Why is your shadow like a false friend?
Because it only follows you in sunshine.

You'll quickly find me out by candlelight.
Shadow.

SHAVING

What chins are never shaved?
Ur-chins.

Why does a man just shaved look like a brute?
Because he has a bare (bear) face.

SHEEP

Why do white sheep eat more than black ones?
There are more of them.

Why are sheep the most dissipated of animals?
Because they gamble (gambol) all their youth, spend most of their lives on the turf, the best of them are black legs, and they are fleeced at last.

If you call a sheep's tail a leg, how many legs will he have?
Four anyhow.

When does a farmer double up a sheep without hurting it?
When he folds it.

When are sheep stationery?
When turned into pens, and into paper when fold-ed.

When is a sheep like ink?
When you take it up into the pen.

What is the best way to double a flock of sheep?
Fold them.

SHIPS

When may an ocean liner be said to be foolishly in love?
When attached to a boy (buoy).

Why is a ship the most polite thing in the world?
Because she always advances with a bow.

When does a ship tell a falsehood?
When she lies at the wharf.

What ship is it in which no woman objects to embark?
Court-ship.

Why is a ship like a woman?
Because she is often tender to a man-of-war; often running after a smack; often attached to a buoy (boy); and frequently making up to a peer (pier).

Why is the first chicken of a brood like the mainmast of a ship?
Because it's a little ahead of the main hatch.

When may a ship be said to be in love?
When she is tender to a man-of-war.

When is she actively in love?
When she seeks a mate.

When is she ambitiously in love?
When she is making up to a peer.

What ship has two mates but no captain?
Courtship.

Why is a ship like a handkerchief?
Because it has stood many a blow and has often been round the horn.

What's the difference between "living in marble halls" and aboard ship?
In the former you have "vassals and serfs at your side," and in (what the Greeks call "thalatta") the latter you have vessels and surfs at your side!

Why is a vessel being blown out to sea like a bankrupt householder?
Because both submit to a forced sail.

Why is a shipwrecked man like an abandoned reprobate?
Because he is a cast-away.

Why should a ship's officer never put his chronometer under his pillow?
Because he should never sleep upon his watch.

Why are ships like fortunes?
Because they are built on stocks.

When is a circus-ground like a ship?
When it is under canvas.

Why are wooden ships, as compared with ironclads, of the female sex?
Because they are the weaker vessels.

Why is the superintendent of a children's playground like a stranded vessel?
Because he runs a-ground.

Why is a good landing-stage indispensable to a port?
Because it is a case of sine qua non.

What does an iron-clad vessel of war, with four inches of steel plating and all her guns on board, weigh just before starting on a cruise?
She weighs anchor.

When is a ship at sea not on the water?
When she is on fire.

Why are ships always called "she"?
Because the rigging costs more than the hull.

When is a ship like a scarfpin?
When it's on the bosom of a heavy swell.

When is a ship most happy?
When she rests on the bosom of a swell.

Why are people that jump to conclusions like ships?
Because they are generally at sea.

What port is sought by every living creature?
Sup-port.

When is a ship's anchor like a chicken?
When it's a-foul.

SHIVERING

What is it you know you've got, take it up, look for it, can't find it, put it down, and walk off?
A shiver.

SHOES

When a shoemaker is about to make a boot, what is the first thing he uses?
The last.

Why is a shoemaker like a true lover?
Because he is true to the last.

Why is a shoeblack like an editor?
Because he polishes the understanding of his patrons.

Why do you always put on your left shoe last?
When you have put one on the other is left.

What makes a pair of shoes?
Two shoes.

When must your shoes be left outside of your hotel?
When they won't go over the inn-step.

Why is a bootblack like the sun?
Because he shines for all.

What tongue is that which frequently hurts and grieves you, and yet does not speak a word?
The tongue of your shoe.

What is that which, although only four inches long and three inches wide, contains a solid foot?
A shoe.

Whose best works are most trampled on?
The shoemaker, because good shoes last longer than bad ones.

What is it that walks with its head downward?
A nail in a shoe.

Did you ever wear crocheted rubbers?
If not crow shade, what are they?

When is a pair of boots like a dying man?
When the soul is departing from the body.

Why do we buy shoes?
Because we cannot get them for nothing.

What is true to the last?
A well-made boot.

Why has the shoemaker wonderful powers of endurance?
Because he holds on to the last.

Why is a good institution like a well-fitting boot?
Because it is made "to last."

When is a shoemaker like a doctor?
When he is heeling.

What is the difference between a man dodging footwear that is being thrown at him and a man chasing a flock of canvasbacks out of his pond?
One ducks the shoes and the other shoos the ducks.

SHOOTING

Why is a ball discharged in the air like an article for soldiers' comfort?
Because it is a blank hit (blanket).

What is the difference between a skilled marksman and the man that tends the targets?
One hits the mark, and the other marks the hit.

A man got shot down in Dock Square.
He bought them in a store.

SHOPS

Why are crockeryware dealers unlike all other shopkeepers?
Because it won't do for them to "crack" up their goods.

If a dog should lose his tail where would he get another?
At Wanamaker's, where everything is retailed.

Why is the opening of a new dry-goods store like a house on fire?
Because it starts all the bells (belles) in the city.

What is a counter-irritant?
A fashionable woman shopping.

State the difference between a grocer selling a pound of sugar, and an apothecary's boy with a pestle and mortar?
One weighs a pound, the other pounds away.

When you go for ten cents' worth of very sharp, long tin-tacks, what do you want them for?
For ten cents!

What part of a shop is exactly like every other part?
The counter-part.

SHORTHAND

When is longhand quicker and more accurate than shorthand?
When it is on a clock.

SHORT PEOPLE

If a short man marries a widow what will his friends call him?
A widow's mite.

Why is a person of short stature like an almanac?
Because he is often looked over or over-looked.

SICKNESS

Why should a man troubled with the gout make his will?
Because he will then have his leg at ease (legatees).

When is a sick man a contradiction?
When he is an impatient patient.

Why does a person who is ailing lose his sense of touch?
Because he does not feel well.

Why may a dyspeptic hope for a long life?
He can't die just (digest) now.

What gives a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor?
A draft.

Why can you never tell real hysterics from sham ones?
Because in either case it is a feint (faint).

When are you not yourself?
When you are a little pale (pail).

SIGHING

Why are stout men prone to melancholy?
Because they are men of size (sighs).

SIGNS

What is the most paradoxical sign?
"To speak aloud is not allowed."

SILENCE

What is it that is so brittle that even to name it is to break it?
Silence.

When is silence likely to get wet?
When it reigns.

SILKWORMS

What is that which is constantly changing its habit while it lives, is buried before it is dead, and whose tomb is valued wherever found?
A silkworm.

SILVERWARE

When is a silver cup most likely to run?
When it's "chased."

SINGING

What kind of a throat should a singer have to reach the high notes?
A sore (soar) throat.

Why are some singers like cheese curds?
Because they require to be pressed.

Why is a poor singer like a counterfeiter?
Because he is an utterer of bad notes.

Why is it vulgar to play and sing by yourself?
Because it is solo (so low).

Why is an old man's head like a song "executed" (murdered) by an indifferent singer?
Because it's often terribly bawled (bald).

Why is a doleful face like the alternate parts taken by a choir?
When it is anti-funny (antiphony).

Why was Patti like a jeweler?
Because she dealt in precious tones (precious stones).

What is the greatest thing to take before singing?
Breath.

What sort of music should a girl sing whose voice is cracked and broken?
Pieces!

Why is an opera-singer like a confectioner?
Because she deals in high screams (ice creams).

What is better than an indifferent singer in a drawing-room after dinner?
A different one!

If a rogue were engaged to sing a chorus, what part would be the most suitable to assign to him?
The bass (base).

SIZE

What is larger than a nutmeg?
A nutmeg-grater.

SKATING

Why is a pair of skates like an apple?
Because they have both occasioned the fall of man.

What contains more feet in winter than in summer?
A skating rink.

SLANDER

Why is a slanderer like a bed-bug?
He is a backbiter.

SLEEPING

Why should we never sleep in a railway car?
Because the train always runs over sleepers.

What is a good sleeping draught?
Taking a doze (dose).

SMALLNESS

What is smaller than a mite's mouth?
That which goes into a mite's mouth.

SMILES

What is the longest word in the language?
"Smiles," because there is a mile between the first and last letter.

SMOKING

Why is a cigar-loving man like a tallow candle?
Because he will smoke when he is going out.

What is the difference between an Indian and an Irishman?
One smokes the pipe of peace and the other smokes a piece of pipe.

Why are pipes all humbugs?
Because the best of them are but meer-shams.

When is a cigar like dried beef?
When it is smoked.

Why is a piece of widely-spread news like a cigar?
Because it is in every idler's mouth.

What is the difference between a drinker and a smoker?
One is a Bacchanalian and the other a tobacconalian.

When a smoker promises to quit, what does the promise usually end in?
Smoke. He smokes again.

SNAKES

Why would some snakes make good story tellers?
Because they get off a rattling good thing in the shape of a tail.

SNEEZING

When does a man sneeze three times?
When he cannot help it.

Why is sneezing like a waterfall?
Because it is a catar(rh)act.

SNORING

Why is a man clearing a hedge at a single bound like one snoring?
Because he does it in his-leap (his sleep).

SNOW

Round the house, round the house, and leaves a white glove in each window?
Snow.

Why is the snow different from Sunday?
Because it can fall on any day in the week.

Why is snow like a maple-tree?
Because it leaves in the early spring.

SNUFF

What would contain all the snuff in the world?
No one nose (knows).

SOAP

What soap is the hardest?
Castile (cast-steel).

SOCIABILITY

What are the most unsociable things in the world?
Mile stones, for you never see two of them together.

SOCIETY

Why is fashionable society like a warming-pan?
Because it is highly polished but very hollow.

What is society composed of?
A mixture of mister-ies and miss-eries.

In what respect does a piano lamp resemble a society-club man?
It has a good deal of brass about it, requires much attention, is not remarkably brilliant, is sometimes unsteady upon its legs, liable to explode when only half full, flares up occasionally, it is always out at bedtime, and is bound to smoke.

What class of women are most apt to give tone to society?
The belles.

SOFAS

When is a sofa like the evil one?
When sat on (Satan).

SOLDIERS

Why do American soldiers never run away?
They belong to a standing army.

Why are soldiers usually in good company?
They are generally associated with big guns.

What is the best form for a soldier?
A uniform.

When are soldiers best able to draw blisters?
When they are mustered in the service.

What is the difference between dead soldiers and repaired garments?
The former are dead men, and the latter are mended (dead).

When is a soldier a wagon maker?
When he makes a wheel.

When is a soldier like an old toper?
When he re-treats.

When is a soldier like a watch?
When he is on guard.

Why should soldiers be rather tired on the first of April?
Because they have just had a march of thirty-one days.

Why are sentries like day and night?
Because when one comes the other goes.

What is the most disagreeable month to a soldier?
A long march.

What is the difference between a soldier and a fisherman?
One bayonets—the other nets a bay.

When is a United States soldier like a man with a ragged coat?
When he is out under arms.

Why are cowardly soldiers like tallow candles?
Because when exposed to the fire they run.

Inform us concerning the difference which exists between a soldier fighting in battle and one who has had his legs shot off?
One will discharge his musket, the other mus' get his discharge.

When are soldiers most admired by an infant?
When they are abreast.

What barrel is best fitted for a soldier's helmet?
A cask (casque).

When is a soldier like a horse?
When he draws a load.

Why is the volunteer movement like a basket of apples?
Because every corps (core) has its colonel (kernel).

When is a soldier charitable?
When he presents arms.

Why is a soldier like a vine?
Because he is listed, trained, has 10 drills (tendrils) and shoots.

Why should not soldiers meddle with nutcrackers?
Because they make the shells burst on the kernel (colonel).

How does a soldier know when it is time to fight?
When he sees a battle-me(a)nt.

When is a soldier like a king?
When he appears with his pomp-on.

Why is a hammer like a general?
It goes to the head, and settles the point of a tack (attack).

When is a soldier not half a soldier?
When he's in quarters.

Why does a Russian soldier wear brass buttons on his coat, and an Austrian soldier wear steel ones?
To keep his coat buttoned.

Why is a coward in a regiment like a good knife?
Because he cuts when brought into action.

What is the best uniform for a soldier?
Right dress.

Why is one of the rank and file of our victorious army who has not been promoted for bravery like an illicit machine?
Because he is a private still.

Why are soldier's guns always safe?
Because every one of them has a lock.

How does the cavalryman whose horse has thrown him differ from the faithful orderly?
He obeys orders from hind quarters, while the orderly obeys orders from headquarters.

When are soldiers like good flannels?
When they don't shrink.

What games are most played by soldiers?
Hazard and picket!

When are volunteers not volunteers?
When they are mustered (mustard).

Who should be the most useful soldiers on a dark night?
The light dragoons.

Which is the best paper for soldiers to read?
A magazine or a review.

SOUL

Why is the soul like a thing of no consequence?
Because it is immaterial.

SOUP

What pins are used in soup?
Terrapins.

SPEAKING

When does a man feel girlish?
When he makes his maiden speech.

SPECTACLES

Great numbers do our use despise,
But yet, at last they find,
Without our help in many things,
They might as well be blind.
Spectacles.

SPECULATION

What is the difference between reckless speculation and a slice of bacon?
One is a rash thing—the other a rasher.

Why must a Yankee speculator be very subject to water on the brain?
Because he always has an ocean (a notion) in his head.

SPELLING

What is that which, by losing an "i," has nothing left but a nose?
A no(i)se.

How do you spell a good needle?
One with an I (eye).

Spell "blind pig" with two letters.
Pg (pig without an eye).

What is it from which the whole may be taken, and yet some will remain?

The word "wholesome."

What word of six letters contains six words besides itself, without transposing a letter?

Herein—he, her, here, ere, rein, in.

What word by changing one letter becomes its opposite?

United—untied.

What part of London is in France?

The letter n.

Ant Contest

What is the oldest ant?

Adam-ant.

What ant hires his home?

Tenant.

What ant is joyful?

Jubilant.

What ant is learned?

Savant.

What ant is well informed?

Conversant.

What ant is trustworthy?

Confidant.

What ant is proud?

Arrogant.

What ant sees things?

Observant.

What ant is angry?

Indignant.

What ant tells things?

Informant.

What ant is successful?

Triumphant.

What ant is an officer?
Commandant.

What ant is a beggar?
Mendicant.

What ant is obstinate?
Defiant.

What ant is youngest?
Infant.

What is the ruling ant?
Dominant.

What is the wandering ant?
Errant.

What ant lives in a house?
Occupant.

What ant points out things?
Significant.

What ant is prayerful?
Supplicant.

City Contest

What city is for few people?
Scarcity.

What city is for happy people?
Felicity.

What city is for hypocrites?
Duplicity.

What city is for chauffeurs?
Velocity.

What city is for truthful people?
Veracity.

What city is for athletes?
Elasticity.

What city is for greedy people?
Voracity.

What city is for wild beasts?
Ferocity.

What city is for home lovers?
Domesticity.

What city is for actors?
Publicity.

What city is for reporters?
Audacity.

What city is for wise people?
Sagacity.

What city is for hungry people?
Capacity.

What city is for telegraph operators?
Electricity.

What city is for crowds?
Multiplicity.

What city is for nations?
Reciprocity.

What city is for old people?
Eccentricity.

What city is for beggars?
Mendicity.

What city is for unhappy people?
Infelicity.

What city is for office-seekers?
Pertinacity.

Age Contest

What age will people reach if they live long enough?
Dotage.

To what age do most people look forward?
Marriage.

A necessary attribute of a soldier?
Courage.

What age is required at sea?
Tonnage.

What age are we forbidden to worship?
Image.

What age do people get stuck on?
Mucilage.

What age is neither more nor less?
Average.

What is the age of profanity?
Damage.

At what age will vessels ride safely?
Anchorage.

What age does the infant in arms pass through?
Crib-bage.

What age does the small boy enjoy?
Sauce-age (sausage).

What age is the young lady most interested in?
Barb-age.

What age does the child in primary school dislike?
Ad(d)age.

What age does the bride desire?
Dotage.

What age is necessary for a clergyman?
Parsonage.

What is the age of communication?
Postage.

What age is most important to travelers?
Mileage.

What is the age of slavery?
Bondage.

What age is served for breakfast?
Sausage.

What is the most indigestible age?
Cabbage.

What age signifies the farmer?
Tillage.

What age belongs to travelers?
Baggage.

What age is an indication of wealth?
Acreage.

What age do milliners delight in?
Plumage.

What age is shared by a doctor and a lawyer?
Patronage.

What age is used in turkey stuffing?
(S)age.

What age do a number of people enjoy in common?
Village.

What may be called the drunkard's age?
Wreckage.

* * * * * * *

If a well-known animal you behead,
Another one you will have instead.
Fox (f-ox).

Spell brandy in three letters!
B R and Y.

What word is it of five letters, of which two being removed, only one will remain?
St-one.

What word of five letters from which if you take two, six remain?
Sixty.

What word of fifteen letters is there from which you can subtract twelve and leave ten?

Pretentiousness.

Spell auburn locks in two letters!

S and Y.

Name two English words, one of which, being of one syllable only, shall contain as many letters as the other of five syllables.

Strength—Idealty.

What word of six letters admits of five successive elisions, leaving at each abbreviation a well-known word?

Brandy—brand—bran—ran—an—a.

What word of one syllable, if you take two letters from it, remains a word of two syllables?

Plague; ague.

What is more wonderful than a horse that can count?

A spelling bee.

Spell enemy in three letters!

No, it's not N M E; you're wrong; try again: it's F O E!

Tie a cross to a monkey, and the animal will be transposed into a point.

Add X to ape, and you obtain "apex."

What word of five syllables is it that if you take away one syllable from it no syllable remains?

Monosyllable; take away mo, and no-syllable remains.

There is a word of three syllables, from which if you take away five letters a male will remain; if you take away four, a female will be conspicuous; if you take away three, a great man will appear; and the whole word shows you what Joan of Arc was?

He, her, hero, heroine!

Which word in the English language contains the greatest number of letters?

Disproportionableness!

What word of ten letters can be spelled with five?

X-p-d-n-c (expediency).

Why is a good speller of a spelling match like a glass of champagne?

Because they both go to the head.

Why is the letter "i" in Cicero like Arabia?

It is between two seas (c's).

A crown which was the pride of ancient Rome: whichever way it is read, it is the same.

Civic.

What words may be pronounced quicker and shorter by adding another syllable to them?

Quick and short.

What word of eight letters is there from which you can subtract five and leave ten?

Tendency.

Which is the easier to spell—fiddle-de-dee or fiddle-de-dum?

The former, because it is spelt with more e's.

Why are the letters C and S in the word cloves, although separated, closely attached?

Because there is love between them.

What nation do people belong to that use the shovel and the hoe?

In-dig-nation.

SPENDTHRIFTS

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a pillow?

One is hard up and the other soft down.

Why is a spendthrift's purse like a thunder-cloud?

Because it is continually lightning.

Why is a spendthrift, with regard to his fortune, like the water in a filter?

Because he soon runs through it, and leaves many matters behind to settle!

SPIDERS

Why would a spider make a good correspondent?

He drops a line by every post.

Why does a spider appear to have wings?
Because it often takes a fly.

SPLINTERS

I was going through the woods; I found something, picked it up and couldn't find it, put it down again, ran home, looked for it, found it, didn't want it and threw it away. What was it?
A thorn in my foot.

SPONGES

What is that which is full of holes and yet holds water?
A sponge.

What is the difference between a new sponge and a fashionable man?
If you well wet one it makes it swell, but if you well wet the other it takes all the swell out of him.

SPOONING

If 32 is the freezing point, what is the squeezing point?
Two in the shade!

When is a man of greatest use at the dinner-table?
When he is a spoon.

SPRING

When is the most dangerous time to visit the country, and why?
In the spring; because the trees are shooting and the bull rushes out.

Why is spring a dangerous season?
The trees are shooting, the flowers have pistils and the bul-rush is out (the bull rushes out).

What is the most dangerous time of the year to visit the country?
When the bul-rushes out, and the cow-slips about, and the little sprigs are shooting all around.

Why is it more dangerous to go out in the spring than any other time of the year?
Because in the spring the grass has blades, the flowers have pistils, the leaves shoot, and the bul-rushes out.

Why is it dangerous to walk in the fields in spring?
Because the hedges are shooting.

What is a sure sign of an early spring?
A cat with her back up watching a hole in the wall.

SQUIRRELS

What makes a squirrel run up a tree?
Oh, chestnuts.

STAIRS

What is the difference between a man going up the stairs, and one looking up?
One steps up the stairs, and the other stares up the steps.

STARING

What part of a house is impertinent?
A stair (stare).

STARS

Why are fixed stars like pens, ink, and paper?
Because they are stationary (stationery).

Why are fixed stars like wicked old men?
Because they scintillate (sin-till-late).

Why are stars the best astronomers?
Because they have studded (studied) the heavens since the creation.

Which of the stars should be subject to the game laws?
Shooting stars.

Which of the constellations reminds you of an empty fireplace?
The Great Bear (grate bare).

What's the difference between the milky-whey—way, we should say—and a room full of great-grandfathers?
One is a lot of pale stars, the other a lot of stale pas.

Why is a star in the heavens like a window in the roof?
A skylight.

What is the dog-star announced to be?
A sky-terrier.

Why is a comet more like a dog than the dog-star?
Because it has a tail and the dog-star hasn't!

Which of the planets would a tortoise like best to live in?
Herschel.

In what constellation are the two shooting dogs which never go down?
In Ursa Major, the pointers; they never go down because they are not setters.

Which of the planets has the most specie?
The moon, because he is constantly changing quarters.

Why are stars like an old barn?
Because there are r, a, t, s, in both.

What is the difference between a fixed star and a meteor?
One is a son, the other is a darter.

STEALING

Why is a thief a good philosopher?
Because he regards everything from an abstract point of view; is opposed to all methods of protection, and is open to conviction.

What kind of robbery may be said to be not dangerous?
A safe robbery.

Why is a professional thief comfortable?
Because he takes things easy.

When is a thief like a reporter?
When he takes notes.

Why is a thief like a philosopher?
Because he is given to fits of abstraction.

Why is a thief called a jail bird?
Because he has been a robin (robbin').

What is thieving in the outskirts?
Picking ladies' pockets.

When are thieves like leopards?
When they are "spotted."

STOCKINGS

When a little boy gets his stockings on wrong side out, what does his mother do?
Turns the hose on him.

When do stockings resemble dead men?
When they are in holes and their soles (souls) have departed.

What is that which a young lady looks for, but does not wish to find?
A hole in her stocking.

Why is a woman deformed when she is mending her stockings?
Because her hands are where her feet should be.

When is a pair of stockings like a very old person?
When they are on their last legs.

Why are stockings like carpenters' aprons?
Because they have nails in them.

When is a stocking like the first rule in dancing?
When its toes are out.

STOCKS

What are stocks?
What a great many of the rogues who deal in them ought to be put into.

STONES

Why may carpenters reasonably believe there is no such thing as stone?
Because they never saw it.

What does a stone become when in the water?
A whetstone (wet stone).

If you throw a stone that is white into the Red Sea, what will it become?
Wet.

What does a stone become in water?
Wet.

STORES

Why is the opening of a new dry-goods store like a house on fire?
Because it starts all the bells (belles) of the city.

Why is a drug store like a bakery?
Because it sells pizen things.

STORIES

Why is a good story like a church bell?
Because it is often tolled (told).

Why would some snakes make good story tellers?
Because they get off a rattling good thing in the shape of a tail.

Why is it best to tell a story with a hammer?
To make it more striking.

Why should a merchant that sells goods below the market price be unable to get into a passion?
Because he is an "under-seller," and therefore "must" be cool.

STORMS

What parts of what animals are like the spring and autumn gales?
The equine hocks (equinox).

What was the color of the wind and waves in a storm?
The wind blue—the waves rose.

STREET CARS

Why are the passengers of an electric car like the current?
Because they make the car-go.

What is the difference between a street car and a sidewalk?
Five cents.

STUDENTS

Why may we assume that a student is very hungry?
Because he "devours" books.

Why does a student never lead a sedentary life?
Because he's always pursuing his studies.

STUPIDITY

Why is a stupid fellow like G sharp?
Because he is A flat.

Why is a blockhead deserving of promotion?
Because he is equal to any post.

SUCCESS

Give the pos. comp. and sup. degrees of getting on in the world?
Get on; get honor; get honest.

SUGAR

Why are lumps of sugar like race horses?
The more you lick them the faster they go.

When is sugar like a pig's tooth?
When in a hog's head.

SUN

What is the difference between the rising and the setting sun?
All the difference in the world.

Why does the sun rise in the East?
Y-east will make anything rise.

Why is a little Italian boy like the sun?
Because he makes the day go (Dago).

Why is an old man's farm in Texas like the focus of a sun glass?
It is a place where the sons raise meat (sun's rays meet).

Of what trade is the Sun?
A tanner.

Of what trade is the sun in the month of May?
Mason (May sun).

What trade does the sun regularly follow?
Those of a tanner and a portrait painter.

Why is the sun like a troublesome or disobedient child?
Because it is refractory.

Why do women carry parasols?
The sun is of the masculine gender, and they cannot endure his ardent glances.

Plant the setting sun, and what will come up?
The morning glory.

Why is the sun like a good loaf?
Because it's light when it rises.

If I were in the sun and you were out of it, what would the sun become?
Sin.

Why is the sun like a man of fashion?
Because it turns night into day.

When does the sun get the best of the dew?
When it makes it dry up.

How many balls of twine would it take to reach the sun?
One, if it were long enough.

What is the difference between the sun and bread?
The sun rises in the east and the bread rises with the y'east in it.

What does the sun do when it sets?
Makes a night of it.

SUNDAY

Why is Sunday the strongest day in the week?
Because the rest are "week" (weak) days.

Without my first my second could never have existed, and my whole is as old as creation.
Sun-day.

My first is the cause of my second, and my whole ought never to be broken, though unless it be holy, and be kept so, you can't keep it at all?
Sunday.

SURGEONS

Why is a surgeon, since the discovery of ether, like a swindler?
Because he cuts off without payin' (pa-in).

Why are cats like unskillful surgeons?
Because they mew till late (mutilate) and destroy patience (patients).

How does the surgeon, whose bill for an operation has been delayed by executors, resemble his deceased patient?
He feels terribly cut up.

How may a man lose half his understanding and yet retain all his wits?
By having a leg cut off.

What is the difference between a surgeon and a conjuror?
One is a cupper, the other a sorcerer (saucer).

What must a good surgeon have to be successful?
He must have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.

What great surgical operation does the manufacturing of maple-sugar remind you of?
Tree panning.

SUSPENDERS

Why do men wear suspenders?
Some wear them to hold up their pants; others, to keep them from coming down.

SWEARING

Why is swearing like an ill-fitting coat?
Because it's a bad habit.

SWEEPING

Why is it impossible to sweep out a room?
Because you sweep out the dirt and leave the room.

What is it that goes around the house in daytime and lies in the corner at night?
A broom.

SWIMMING

When is a man immersed in his business?
When he is giving a swimming lesson.

SYMPATHY

Why is sympathy like blind man's buff?
Because it is a fellow feeling for a fellow mortal.

Where can you always find sympathy?
In the dictionary.

What sort of sympathy would you rather be without?
You don't want to be pitted by the small-pox!

TABLES

What table has no legs to stand upon?
The multiplication table.

What is the oldest table in the world?
The multiplication table.

TAILORS

Why do tailors make very ardent lovers?
Because they press their suits.

When are tailors and house agents both in the same business?
When they gather the rents.

Where are feathers rarely found?
On a tailor's goose.

Why should you never have a tailor who does not understand his trade?
Because you would get bad habits from him.

When does a tailor serve his customers both well and ill?
When he gives them fits.

How would you speak of a tailor when you did not remember his name?
As Mr. So-and-So (sew and sew).

Why would fashionable tailors make good cavalry horses?
Because they are high chargers.

Why is a tailor like a battering-ram?
He makes breeches (breaches).

TALKING

Why is a fool's mouth like a tavern door?
Because it is always open.

In what month do men talk the least?
February, because it is the shortest.

Why are tedious talkers like very old people?
Because they dilate (die late).

When are ladies like belfries?
When they have a loud clapper in their upper story.

What is the difference between a chatterbox and a looking-glass?
One speaks without reflecting, the other reflects without speaking.

Why is an oyster like a man of sense?
Because he knows how to keep his mouth shut.

When does a talkative woman hold her jaw?
When she has a toothache.

When does a woman's tongue go quickest?
When it's on a railroad.

TALL PEOPLE

Why does a tall man eat less than a short one?
He makes a little go a long ways.

How can you make a tall man short?
Borrow money of him.

Why are tallest people always the laziest?
Because they are longer in bed than others.

TEA

Why is the cost of tea so high?
Because we must pay a steep price.

Why should all sober people go to rest directly after tea?
Because when "T" is gone, night is nigh.

When is a teapot like a kitten?
When you're teasin' it (tea's in it).

Which has the hardest life of it, tea or coffee?
Tea, because coffee settles down while tea is compelled to draw.

How can you make one pound of green tea go as far as five pounds of black?
Buy the above quantities in New York, and send them up to Yonkers.

Why is my cup of tea stronger than yours?
Because it is all my tea (almighty).

What is tantalizing?
Giving invitations only to teas (tease).

TEETH

What are the last teeth called?
False teeth.

When are teeth like verbs?
When they are regular, irregular and defective.

How can you have a new set of teeth inserted free of charge?
Kick a bull-dog.

Why is a drawn tooth like a thing forgotten?
Because it is out of the head.

Thirty white horses on a red hill, now they tramp, now they stand still.
The teeth; when you stop talking, they stop.

What root must you hold in your hand to stop the toothache?
The root of the tooth that aches.

When do your teeth usurp the functions of the tongue?
When they are chattering.

Which of your teeth are like a dressmaker's finger and thumb when she is cutting out a dress?
Those in-cisors (scissors).

What is the best plan to prevent crying out when your teeth are extracted?
Hold your jaw!

What is that which never uses its teeth for eating purposes?
A comb.

When is an old, decayed tooth like an important personage?
When it is a king.

Why is a situation of great trust like a back tooth?
Because it is hard to fill.

TELEGRAPH

If two Postal Telegraph operators were married in San Francisco, what would they make?
A Western Union.

Why is it vulgar to send telegrams?
Because it is making use of flash language.

Why is the telegraph like a musical director?
Because it beats time.

TEMPER

What is the superlative of temper?
Tempest.

When is it a good thing to lose your temper?
When it's a bad one!

Why is it important for a physician to keep his temper?
Because if he did not he would lose his patients.

TENEMENTS

What is a better investment the worse it is?
A tenement.

THANKS

What is that which we often return but never borrow?
Thanks.

THEATRES

When is a theatrical manager like an astronomer?
When he discovers a new star.

Why is a sick horse like a bad play?
Because it can't run and can't draw.

What is the difference between a nigger outside of the theatre and one inside?
Fifty cents.

Why is the interior of a theatre ever a sorry sight?
Because the boxes are always in tiers.

When may ladies who are enjoying themselves be said to look wretched?
When at the opera, as then they are in tiers (tears).

What are the best seats in the house?
The receipts.

What is the coldest place in an opera house?
Z row.

What is the difference between the manager of a theatre and a sailor?
A sailor likes to see a light house and the manager doesn't.

Why are opera dancers like parricides?
Because they execute their pas.

Why is there a bad audience at the playhouse when the pit is full?
Because it is a pitiful house.

What trade is a manager of a theatre?
A stage-driver.

What is a remarkable fact when the Chinese actor loses his head?
He is pretty sure to lose his cue at the same time.

THINKING

What is the most wonderful acrobatic feat?
For a man to revolve in his own mind.

THUNDER

Why is thunder like an onion?
Because it comes peal on peal.

TICKLING

A boy said to his sister, "I saw something down town that would tickle you." "Oh!" she said, "was it a monkey?" "No." "Was it a dancing bear?" "No. It was——"
A straw.

I'll tell you something that will tickle you. What?
A feather.

When is a man greatly tickled but doesn't laugh?
When a fly lights upon his nose.

TIME

If a postmaster went to a circus and a bear ate him, what time would it be?
8 "P. M."

What is a waste (waist) of time?
The middle of an hour-glass.

How many weeks in a year?
Forty-six, because six are lent.

If you see a man scratching his head, what time is it?
Five after one.

What is the best way to kill time in winter?
Sleigh (slay) it.

What is the best way to make time go fast?
Use the spur of the moment.

What is that which every living person has seen, but will never see again?

Yesterday.

Ever running on my race,
Never staying at one place,
Through the world I make my tour,
Everywhere at the same hour.
If you please to spell my name,
Reversed or forward 'tis the same?

Noon.

What is it we all say we will do, recommend others to do, and yet no one has ever done it?

Stop a minute!

This is a teaser!—What is it which *will be* yesterday and *was* tomorrow?

Why to-day, of course!

What is that which no man ever yet did see,
Which never was, but always is to be?

To-morrow.

Aristotle—There is one thing that God himself cannot change, and that is—

Yesterday.

Where did you go on your tenth birthday?

Into your eleventh year.

What melancholy fact is there about a calendar?

There is no time when its days are not numbered.

What day in the year has an injunction to go forward?

March 4th.

How is it that Summer goes so quickly?

Because there is often an evening mist.

How far is it from February to June?

A single spring.

Why is it there is not a moment that we can call our own?

Because the minutes are not (h)ours.

TIREDNESS

When is a man like a cart wheel?
When he is tired.

What grows the less tired the more it works?
A carriage wheel.

What part of an automobile resembles Fanny when she is sleepy?
The wheels, because they are tired.

Why is a tired man like an umbrella?
Because he is used up.

When is a tired man like a thief?
When he needs a resting.

TOASTS

What are they, which, though always drunk, are never intoxicated?
Toasts.

You drink me, you eat me—deny me who can. I am sometimes a woman and sometimes a man.
A toast.

TOBACCO

Three parts of a cross and a circle complete,
Two semi-circles a perpendicular meet,
A triangle standing on two feet,
Two semi-circles and a circle complete?
T O B A C C O. T is three parts of a cross, etc.

What is the difference between a locomotive and a chew of tobacco?
One it's choo, choo, choo to go ahead, and the other it's chew, chew tobaccer.

TONGUE

Which is the only tool that grows sharper with use?
The tongue.

Why is the tongue like a horse?
It must be bridled.

What tongue is it that frequently hurts and grieves you, and yet does not speak a word?
The tongue of your shoe.

What vegetable does a lady's tongue resemble?
The scarlet runner!

What is that which every one frequently holds yet rarely touches?
His tongue.

When does the tongue assume the functions of the teeth?
When it back-bites.

What is that which denotes the state of the mind and of the body?
The tongue!

TRADES

What trade is like the sun?
A tanner's.

What workman never turns to the left?
A wheelwright.

Of what trade are all the presidents?
Cabinet makers.

What trade does the sun follow in the month of May?
Mason (May sun).

Of what occupation is a manager of a theatre?
A stage-driver.

Of what trade is a minister at a wedding?
A joiner.

Of what trade was Johnnie Horner?
A plumber.

What trade is most likely to frighten handsome ladies?
A bell(e)hanger.

What man must have his glass before he can do his day's work?
A glazier.

Why is a bookbinder like charity?
Because he often covers a multitude of faults.

How is a poultry dealer compelled to earn his living?
By foul means.

Who is a man of grit?
A sugar refiner.

What kind of business never makes progress?
The stationery (ary) business.

Why is a billiard maker like a stage prompter?
Because he gives the players a cue.

Why is an inn-keeper like a multitude of people?
Because he is a host himself.

When are brokers in a panic like ships?
When running on the banks.

What trade is best fitted to cook a hare?
A hair-dresser (hare-dresser).

What trade is certainly one in which a man will never make a cent except by sticking at it?
Bill-posting.

Why is the woodsman's ax an inconsistent weapon?
Because it first cuts a tree down and then cuts it up.

Why is a dressmaker a most deceptive woman?
Because she is not what she seams.

Who is the man who invariably finds things dull?
The scissors grinder.

What trade is more than full?
Fuller.

Why is a ropemaker like a poet?
Because he makes lines.

Why are coopers like musical composers?
Because they make use of "staves."

Why is a miller like a cook?
Because he prepares the meal.

Why ought the man who handles the reins on a horse-car be successful?

Because he does a driving business.

Why is a man that has studied and practised the art of inlaying with variegated colors like four letters of the alphabet?

Because he's an enameller (N M L R).

Which loom does a weaver like best?

An heir-loom.

TRAINS

What is the most difficult train to catch?

The 12.50, because it's ten to one if you catch it.

What is that which comes with a train, goes with a train, is of no use whatever to the train, and yet the train can't go without it?

Noise.

On the first of July, 1891, a train ran off the great bridge at St. Louis and no one was killed or injured. How was it possible?

It ran off the bridge as usual and went on its way.

Why is a railroad-car like a bed-bug?

Because it runs on sleepers.

How can a man express himself, and yet not speak one word?

When he takes the express train.

When is a train of cars like an eagle's nest?

When elevated.

What time does the three o'clock train go out?

Schedule time.

Why is a railroad track a particularly sentimental object?

Because it is bound by close ties.

Which is the most difficult train to catch?

They are all much about the same to you if you let them start first.

Why is it dangerous to take a nap in a train?

Because the cars invariably run over sleepers.

What does a husband do who misses a train by which he promised his wife to return?
Catches it when he gets home.

TRAMPS

Why is a tramp like flannel?
Because he shrinks from washing.

Why is a coat worn by a weather-beaten tramp like a man with insomnia?
Because it has not had a nap for years.

TRAPS

Why is a steel-trap like the small-pox?
Because it is catching.

TRAVEL

If a man and his wife go to Europe together, what is the difference in their mode of travelling?
He goes abroad and she goes along.

When has a lady going to Europe most reason to feel flat?
When she is a-board.

TREADMILLS

Why is the treadmill like a true convert?
Because its turning is the result of conviction!

TREASON

Why is it no offense to conspire in the evening?
What is treasonable is reasonable after "t".

TREES

Why are trees in winter like troublesome visitors?
Because it's a long time before they leave.

How is it that trees can put on new dresses without opening their trunks?

Because they leave (leaf) out their summer clothing.

Which is the oldest tree?

The elder.

Why is a tree like a dog?

Because they both lose their bark when they die.

What tree is of the greatest importance in history?

The date.

Why is a leaf of a tree like the human body?

Because it has veins in it.

What trees flourish best upon the hearth?

Ashes.

What ailment is the oak most subject to?

A corn (acorn).

What tree bears the most fruit to market?

The axle-tree.

How many sides are there to a tree?

Two, the inside and outside.

What trees has fire no effect upon?

Ashes, as when burned they are ashes still.

If a tree were to break the panes of a window, what would they say?

Tree, mend us (tremendous).

Why is a holly bush like a corpse?

Because it is or will be berry'd.

Which tree commands the most respect from its fellows?

The elder.

Plant a puppy, and what would come up?

Dog would (Dogwood).

On what side of a church does a yew-tree grow?

The outside!

What tree pinches the Jews?
The Jew-nipper (Juniper).

When does a man resemble an oak?
When growing a-corn.

When a tree is felled, why has it no right to complain?
Because it was "axed" whether it would or not.

Which is the debtor's favorite tree?
The willow (will owe).

TROUBLES

Why is a man in the midst of troubles like a prudent man?
He is care-full.

When does one become soured?
When he is in a pickle.

What requires more philosophy than taking things as they come?
Parting with things as they go.

Why is a well-trained horse like a benevolent man?
Because it stops at the sound of wo.

Why are troubles like babies?
Because they grow bigger by nursing.

TRUNKS

When is a trunk like two letters of the alphabet?
When it is M T (empty).

TRUTH

When do we find a grain of truth?
When we see real (ce-real) facts.

What is the difference between truth and eggs?
Truth crushed to the earth will rise again, but eggs won't.

What is that which you can keep even after giving it to somebody else?
Your word.

How can a man tell the naked truth?
By telling the bare facts.

TYPEWRITERS

When is one's neck like a typewriter?
When it is Underwood.

UMBRELLAS

What can you put up a spout down that you can't put down a spout up?
An umbrella.

Three men were under one umbrella but none of them got wet. How did they do it?
It was not raining.

Why is an old umbrella as good as a new one when found?
Because it is recovered.

When is an umbrella like a person convalescent?
When it is re-covered.

When may you suppose an umbrella to be one mass of grease?
When it's dripping.

Why is an umbrella a paradox?
Because it is best when used up.

What is the difference between an umbrella and a woman?
The umbrella you can shut up when you want, but a woman, "never."

When is an umbrella like a bomb-shell?
When blown inside out.

During the month of heavy showers, how has the umbrella been persistently bluffing the game?
It has been "put up or shut up" with it all the while.

Why are umbrellas like good churchmen?
They keep Lent so well.

If a farmer can raise 250 bushels of corn in dry weather, what can he raise in wet weather?
An umbrella.

VACCINATION

What is the most warlike nation?
Vacci-nation, because it is always in arms.

VARIETY

"Variety is the spice of life," we say, but we cannot live on spice. What, then, is the food of life?

Uniformity; our regular work; our daily bread, our old friends and common faith. Order is better than novelty. Common things are best.

VEGETABLES

How can you change a pumpkin into a squash?
Throw it up and it will come down a squash.

Why are ripe potatoes in the ground like thieves?
Because they ought to be taken up.

Why should potatoes grow better than other vegetables?
Because they have eyes to see what they are doing.

If we were going to kill a conversational goose, what vegetable would she allude to?
Ah!-spare-a-goose! (asparagus).

What is the difference between a diseased potato and a bee-hive?
Not any, one is a spectator, the other a bee-holder.

Why are frames put about tomato plants?
To make the tomato ketchup (catch up).

What was the cause of the potato rot?
The rot-atory motion of the earth.

What vegetable is anything but agreeable on board ship?
A leek (leak).

What garden crop would save draining?
Leeks.

Why do they preserve vegetables more than they used to?
Because they can.

Why does an onion resemble a ringing bell?
Because peel follows peel in an onion, and peal follows peal in a ringing bell.

Why should wire be used to train string beans?
So that they may not be too stringy.

What's the difference between a potato and a soldier?
One shoots from the eye, the other from the shoulder.

Why is this book like a tomato?
Because it can't be beat (beet).

When are potatoes used for mending clothes?
When they are put in patches.

What vegetable is like the blind?
The potato. It has eyes but cannot see.

Why is a cabbage run to seed like a lover?
Because it has lost its heart.

Why is a good cabbage the most amiable of vegetables?
Because it is all heart.

VINEGAR

What is vinegar without a mother?
Orphan very poor.

VINES

What vine does beef grow on?
The bo-vine.

Why is a vine like a soldier?
Because it is 'listed, trained, has tendrils, and then shoots.

VIOLINS

How can you ask a doctor of divinity, in one word, to play a violin?
Fiddle-dee-dee.

Which is the cheapest way to buy a fiddle?
Buy a quarter's worth of medicine and you get a vial in.

VOICE

What is the difference between a man with an unnatural voice and a woman with unnatural teeth?

One has a falsetto voice, and the other has a false-set-o'-teeth.

VOWELS

What word contains all the vowels in due order?

Facetiously.

Why is "i" the luckiest of the vowels?

Because it's the center of bliss, while "e" is in hell, and all the rest are in purgatory.

Is there a word in the English language that contains all the vowels?

Yes, unquestionably.

Why is the letter E a gloomy and discontented vowel?

Because, though never out of health and pocket, it never appears in spirits.

Why are E and I the happiest of the vowels?

Because they are in happiness, while the rest are in purgatory.

What are those things which, though they appear twice in every day, and twice in every week, yet are only seen twice in a year?

Vowels.

Why is the vowel O the only one sounded?

Because all the others are in audible (inaudible).

There are two words only in our language wherein the five vowels follow in successive order. Which are they?

Facetious, and Abstemious!

What is that which is seen twice in "every day" and four times in "every week," yet only once in a year?

The vowel e.

WAGONS

What always goes with a wagon that is no part of it and of no use to it?

The noise it makes.

What tree bears the most fruit for market?
The axel-tree.

When is a loaded express wagon like a forest?
When it is full of trunks.

WAITERS

Why is a waiter like a race-horse?
Because he runs for cups, and plates, and steaks (stakes)!

WALKING

Why are three couples going to church like a child's penny trumpet?
Because they go too, too, too (two and two and two).

What article in a grocery expresses a doubt as to a man's power of walking?
Can-i-stir (canister).

WALKING STICKS

Why mustn't you have a short walking stick?
Because it can never be-long to you.

WALL PAPER

What is a put-up job?
The paper on the wall.

You can hang me on the wall, but if you take me down, you cannot hang me up again.
Wall paper.

WALLS

I can throw an egg against the wall
And it will neither break nor fall.
The wall will not break.

When is a wall like a fish?
When it is "scaled."

Why do we look over a stone wall?
Because we can't look through it.

Why is the wall going to decay?
Because you can see its molding.

WAR

Why is it dangerous for farmers to plant peas during the war?
For fear the enemy will come along and shell them.

Why are colored men put in front in battle?
Because they are fast black and won't run.

Why wouldn't the Kaiser have any teeth pulled during the World War?
He was afraid of the Yanks.

What is the difference between a fort and a fortress?
The latter is the harder to silence.

Why are the citizens of Charlestown prohibited from eating peanuts?
For fear they will throw their shells into the navy yard.

Why would a revolution in Finland be extremely dangerous?
Because it would be a Finnish fight.

What girl did the most damage in the Civil War?
Minnie Ball.

Why do the Germans spell "culture" with a "K"?
Because the English have command of the C's.

Why has the mayor ordered the public library closed?
For fear the magazines will blow up.

Have you heard of the accident at the C., H. & D. depot?
A train ran over a peanut, a shell exploded, and crushed two kernels.

What was the Chinaman's opinion of the Spanish War?
Spaniard all talkee talkee. Melican all Dewey Dewey.

What was the color of the Maine?
Blew (blue) up from the bottom.

What is the last blow a defeated ship gives in battle?
Strikes her own flag.

What is one of the rules of war?
That it is death to stop a cannon ball.

What is the worst kind of fare for a man to live on?
Warfare.

Why is a fortified town like a pudding?
Because it's often batter'd.

What is the most warlike nation?
Vacci-nation, because it is always in arms.

When are balls and routs supplied gratis?
On the field of battle.

What instrument of war does the earth resemble?
A revolver.

WASHING

Why are washerwomen the greatest travelers?
They are continually crossing the line and going from pole to pole.

Why are washerwomen the silliest of women?
Because they put out their tubs to catch soft water when it rains hard.

Why is a washerwoman like Saturday?
Because she brings in the clothes (close) of the week.

Why is a washerwoman the most cruel person in the world?
Because she daily wrings men's bosoms.

What is the difference between an honest and a dishonest laundress?
One irons your linen and the other steals it.

Why are washerwomen great flirts?
Because they wring men's bosoms.

Why should ladies squeezing wet linen remind us of going to church?
Because the "belles" are wringing.

WATCHES

Why do men wear large watches and ladies small ones?
Because men like to have a big time.

I went to India and stopped there; I came away because I could not go there.
A watch.

Why is modesty the strongest characteristic of a watch?
Because it always keeps its hands before its face, and runs down its own works.

Why should a man always wear a watch when he travels in a desert?
Because every watch has a spring in it.

Why is a watch like a river?
Because it won't run long without winding.

What is the difference between a watchmaker and a jailor?
The one sells watches, and the other watches cells.

Why can't a thief easily steal a watch?
Because he must take it off its guard.

When is it difficult to get one's watch out of one's pockets?
When it's (s)ticking there.

Why is a watch like the moon?
Because it presents halves and quarters and reports time.

Why are two watches given as prizes like a happy married couple?
Because though they are two, yet are they one (won).

Why can a watchmaker never make a fortune?
Because his goods always go on tick.

Why are the hours from one to twelve like good Christians?
Because they are always on the watch.

What is it that has a face, but no head; hands, but no feet; yet travels everywhere and is usually running?
A watch.

WATER

I tremble at each breath of air and yet can heaviest burdens bear?
Water.

When can you carry water in a sieve?
When it is frozen.

What is the best way to prevent water from coming into your house?
Don't pay your water tax.

When does water resemble a gymnast?
When it makes a spring.

What object is walking over the water and under the water, yet does not touch the water?
A woman crossing a bridge over a river with a pail of water on her head.

What is that which every one can divide, but no one can see where it has been divided?
Water.

When will water stop running down hill?
Why, when it gets to the bottom.

When is water like fat?
When it is "dripping."

WATERMELONS

Why is there water in a watermelon?
Because it is planted in the Spring.

WAVES

What makes the waves so wild?
It is having the wind blow them up.

What game do the waves play at?
At pitch and toss.

WEATHER

What is the best weather for hay-making?
When it rains pitchforks.

Why is snow more easy to understand than any other sort of weather?
Because it is the only one of which you can see the drift.

What moral sentence does a weathercock suggest?
"It is a vain (vane) thing to a-spire."

Why is a stormy, windy day like a child with a cold in its head?
It blows, it snows (it blows its nose).

If I encounter a man wheeling earth, why am I like a weather-glass?
Because I am a barometer (barrow meeter).

What sort of a day would be a good one on which to run for a cup?
A muggy one.

WEDDINGS

Why is a bridal couple coming from the altar like an ocean ebb?
Because it's the tied (tide) going out.

When is a sexton like a bridegroom?
When ringing the bell (belle).

Why is a bridegroom often more expensive than a bride?
Because the bride is given away, but the groom is often sold!

What fastens two people together yet touches only one?
The wedding ring.

In what part of the church do they ring bells (belles)?
At the altar.

What parties are young ladies always partial to?
Wedding parties.

Why are three couples going to be married like penny trumpets?
Because they go two-two-two.

Why is a beautiful woman at her marriage festival like one on horseback?

Because she holds a bridal reign (bridle rein).

At what age should a man marry?

At the parsonage.

What is the oldest coupler in use?

The wedding ring.

What two reasons are there why a young lady going to the altar is certainly going wrong?

She is miss-taken and miss-led.

Why is a man on his way to be married like a felon being conducted to the scaffold?

Because he is being led to the altar (halter).

What is the difference between a blunder and a wedding?

One is a mis-take and the other a take Miss.

WEIGHT

With what would you fill a barrel to make it lighter than when it was empty?

Holes.

What always weighs the same whether larger or smaller?

A hole.

If one man carries a sack of flour and another man carries two sacks, who has the heavier load?

A sack of flour is heavier than two empty sacks. (The one that carries the sack of flour.)

When does a man weigh the most?

When he's the heaviest.

Which is the heavier, a pound of gold or a pound of feathers?

A pound of feathers which weigh a pound avoirdupois, a pound of gold is a pound troy.

When does a donkey weigh the least?

When he is within the pound.

Why is Troy weight like an unconscientious person?

Because it has no scruples.

WHEELBARROWS

Niddy, noddy, two heads and one body.
A wheelbarrow.

What object goes round the house, then round the garden, and makes but one track?
A wheelbarrow.

WHEELS

What is the political character of a water-wheel?
Revolutionary.

WHISPERING

Why is whispering prohibited in society?
Because it is not aloud.

Why is a whisper like a forged bank-note?
Because it is uttered but not aloud (allowed).

What is the gentlest kind of spur?
A whisper.

Why should there be a marine law against whispering?
Because it is privateering (private hearing), and consequently illegal.

WHISTLING

Tell me the name of the oldest whistler in the world, and what tune did he whistle?
The wind whistling "Over the hills and far away."

WIDOWERS

Why is a widower like a house in a state of dilapidation?
Because he wants re-pairing.

Why is a widower in love again like a good gardener?
Because he immediately removes his weeds.

Why is a widower like a young baby?
Because he cries a great deal the first six months, looks around the second six months, and has hard work to get through his second summer.

At what period in his sorrow does a widower recover from the loss of his dear departed?

When he re-wives (revives).

WIDOWS

When are weeds not weeds?

When they become widows.

Why did all the widowers worship the ground that a certain widow walked on?

Because the ground was her farm and they wanted it.

Why is a widow like a gardener?

Because she tries to get rid of her weeds.

Why are widows more generous than young girls?

Because girls are looking out for number one; widows are satisfied with number two.

Why is a pensive widow like the letter X?

Because she is never in-consolable!

What is the difference between a widow and a window?

Little if "n"-y; for the transparent griefs of the one, like the transparent panes of the other, are removed in course of re-pairing; and the latter is for mankind to look out of, while the former looks out for mankind.

Why is a gay young widow like an eclipse?

Because she doesn't stay long in black.

Why is a widow like a house in the state of dilapidation?

Because she wants re-pairing.

What is the most suitable dower for a widow?

Wi-dower.

What length may a widow go when she desires a new parent for her children?

She may go one step-farther.

WIGS

What is that which is sometimes with a head, without a head, with a tail, and without a tail?

A wig.

What wig cannot a barber make?
An ear-wig.

WILLS

What's the difference between your last will and testament and a man who has eaten as much as he can?
One is signed and dated, the other dined and sated.

WIND

Why does the east wind never blow straight?
Because it blows oblique (blows so bleak).

What is the wind like in a storm?
Like to blow your hat off.

What can pass before the sun without making a shadow?
The wind.

What wind should a hungry sailor wish for?
One that blows fowl and chops about.

When is the wind of use to a country engaged in war?
When it blows great guns.

When is the wind like a woodchopper?
When it cuts.

What wind do we naturally look for after Lent?
An Easter-ly one.

What kind of a loan is the surest to "raise the wind"?
A cyclone.

WINDOWS

What pain do we make light of?
Window pane.

When is a window like a star?
When it is a skylight.

WIT

Why is wit like a Chinese lady's foot?
Because brevity's the "sole" of it.

Why is a clever wit like a chemist?
Because he has many a good retort.

WIVES

How many wives is a man allowed according to the prayer book?
Sixteen: fo(u)r better, fo(u)r worse, fo(u)r richer, fo(u)r poorer.

Why is a man happier with two wives than with one?
He may be happy with one, but with two he is nearly sure to be transported.

Why is a scolding wife like a thing of beauty?
"Because she is a joy (jaw) forever."

Why is a wife like a newspaper?
Because every one should have one of their own without borrowing their neighbor's.

What is that which a lady never had and never can have, and yet she has it in her power to present to another?
A wife.

What kind of a book might a man wish his wife to resemble?
An almanac; for then he could have a new one every year.

When may a man call his wife "honey"?
When she has a comb on her head.

Why does a wife hug her husband?
Because she wants to get around him.

Why would you recommend extravagant ladies to young men seeking wives?
Because they would make dear wives.

In what way do women ruin their husbands?
In buy-ways.

WOMEN

What is a counter irritant?
A woman shopping.

On what day of the year does a woman talk least?
The shortest day.

What are the three quickest ways of spreading news?
Telegraph, telephone, tell-a-woman.

What headlines prove the most sensational to women?
Wrinkles.

What three acts comprise the chief business of a woman's life?
Attract, contract, detract.

If a woman were to change her sex why could she no longer be a Christian?
Because she would be a he(a)then.

Why should ladies squeezing wet clothes remind us of going to church?
The belles are wringing.

Why is a woman like a locomotive?
She makes a terrible noise when she whistles.

Victor Hugo said, "Man was the riddle of the eighteenth century." But what is the riddle of the nineteenth century?
Woman, we can't guess her, but we'll never give her up.

Why do women make good post-office clerks?
Because they know how to manage the mails (males).

Why is it proper to include women when we say mankind, or all men?
Because man embraces woman.

Why is a handsome woman like bread?
Because she is often toasted.

Why are women wicked?
They hook their dresses, steel their petticoats, and crib their babies.

Why should ladies not learn French?
Because one tongue is enough for any woman.

Which is the favorite word with women?
The last one.

What is wetter than a woman with waves in her hair, a cataract over each eye, a waist with half a dozen springs in it, and high tied (tide) shoes?
A woman with an ocean (a notion) in her head.

Why is a very ugly female a wonderful woman?
She is an extra-ordinary one.

Why are some women like facts?
Because they are stubborn things.

Why is an attractive woman like a successful gambler?
Because she has such winning ways.

In what month do women talk the least?
February (the shortest month).

Why is a woman's beauty like a gold coin?
Because when once changed it soon goes.

What creature has many trunks?
A woman when traveling.

Why are women like salad?
Because they both need a great deal of dressing.

What is the most difficult surgical operation?
To take the jaw out of a woman.

When is a superb woman like bread?
When given as a toast.

What is the only form in this world which all nations, barbarous, civilized, and otherwise, are agreed upon following?
A female form!

Why is a woman's thought like the telegraph?
It is so much quicker than the mail (male) intelligence.

Do women like to see themselves in print?
No; they prefer silk or satin.

Why are good women like ivy?
Because the greater the ruin, the closer they cling.

Why are bad women like ivy?
Because the closer they cling the greater the ruin.

What class of people in America have no legs?
Women; they have limbs.

Suppose there were only three women in the world, what would they talk about?

Two would get together and talk about the other.

Well, suppose there were only three men in the world, what would they do?

Be skirmishing around to find the three women.

What man do most men admire?

Wo-man.

Why are some women very much like tea-kettles?

Because they sing away pleasantly and then all at once boil over.

What most frequently becomes a woman?

A little girl.

What is the difference between a woman and a parasol?

You can shut up a parasol.

What is the only organ without stops?

A woman's organ of speech.

In what way do women ruin their husbands?

In buy-ways.

Why is a deceptive woman like a seamstress?

Because she is not what she seams (seems).

Why are women like churches?

Because there is no living without one; because there is many a-spire to them; and because they are objects of adoration.

When is a woman not a woman?

When she is a little chill; when she is a belle; or when she is a dear.

Where is it that all women are equally beautiful?

In the dark.

What is the worth of a woman?

Double you, O man (w-o-man).

When is a woman a live wire?

When she's shocking.

Which is the best place to hold the World's Fair?
On your heart; the fair one's.

Why is a pretty woman like a lock?
Because she is a thing to a door (adore).

What vegetable does a woman's tongue resemble?
The scarlet-runner.

What is the difference between some women and their looking-glasses?
They talk without reflecting and the mirrors reflect without talking.

Why are women like the ocean?
Because they never dry up.

Why does a woman lose time after she is twenty?
Because time waits for no man, but she does.

Why is a woman with twins like a sentinel on duty?
Because she goes with loaded arms.

Why is woman's heart like the moon?
Because it changes continually, but there is always a man in it.

What is the difference between a clock and a woman?
A clock points out hours, and a woman makes us forget them.

What is an Englishman's notion of woman's mission?
Sub-mission.

WORK

Where is the place to go when you're broke?
Go to work.

Why is an office with no work to do like a good dinner eaten by an invalid?
Because it's a sign-o'-cure (sinecure)!

Why are some people like cider?
Because they remain sweet until it is time to work.

WORLD

Why can the world never come to an end?
Because it is round.

WRITING

Why is a specimen of handwriting like a dead pig?
Because it is done with the pen.

What pen ought never to be used for writing?
A sheep pen.

Why should we never write upon an empty stomach?
Paper is preferable.

What is the greatest stand ever made for civilization?
The inkstand.

Why is a blundering writer like an arbiter in a dispute?
Because he writes (rights) wrong.

YEARS

What tree has twelve branches, about thirty leaves on each branch; which are light on one side and dark on the other?
The year.

What are the embers of the expiring year?
Nov-ember and Dec-ember.

YOUNG LADIES

What is the difference between a mouse and a young lady?
One harms the cheese and the other charms the he's.

Why is a young lady like an arrow?
Because she can't go off without a bow (beau), and is in a quiver till she gets one.

When does a young lady resemble a chestnut?
When she has hazel eyes, chestnut hair and is married to a colonel.

What is the difference between a young lady and a soldier?
One powders the face; the other faces the powder.

What is the best way to find a young lady out?
Go around to her home when she is not in.

What is the difference between a made-up belle and a burglar?
One wears false locks, the other false keys.

Why is a butcher like a fashionable young lady?
One kills to dress; the other dresses to kill.

Why is a young lady like a promissory note?
Because she ought to be settled when she arrives at maturity.

Why is a young lady like a letter?
Because if she isn't well stamped the mails (males) won't take her.

Why are young ladies so partial to sunset and twilight?
Because they are daughters of Eve.

Why is a bright young lady like a spoon in a cup of tea?
Because she is interesting (in tea resting).

Why is a young lady like a prize fighter?
Because she is willing to enter the ring at sixteen and make a match with a man twice her size.

Why is a young lady's age after she has reached twenty-five like a floral wedding-bell?
Because it is never told.

Why are young ladies bad grammarians?
Because so few can decline matrimony.

When is it no misfortune for a young lady to lose her good name?
When a young man gives her a better one.

How is it that the affections of young ladies, notwithstanding that they may protest and vow constancy, are always doubtful?
Because they are only miss givings (misgivings).

When is a young lady not a young lady?
When she's a sweet tart (sweetheart).

Why would young ladies make good volunteers?
Because they are accustomed to bare arms.

Why is a melancholy young lady the pleasantest of all companions?
Because she is always a-musing.

When is a young lady like an acrobat?
When she shows her sleight of hand by refusing you.

Why do young ladies in love like the circus?
Because they have an itching for the ring.

Why does a young lady prefer her mother's fortune to her father's?

Because, though she likes patrimony, she still better likes matrimony.

Why is a young lady dependent upon the letter Y?

Because without it she would be a "young lad."

What is the most engaging work of art?

A fashionable young lady.

Why ought very young ladies to mind their P's and Q's?

To enable them to discover the difference between being Polite and Quiet, and being Pert and Quarrelsome.

Why is an aristocratic seminary for young ladies like a flower garden?

Because it's a place of haughty culture (horticulture).

Why is a beautiful fascinating young lady like a butcher?

Because they are both killing creatures.

Why is a belle like a locomotive?

She transports the mails.

What is the difference between a young lady and a wide-awake hat?

One has feeling, the other is felt.

What is the best kind of agricultural fair?

A farmer's very pretty daughter.

Why should young ladies be employed in the post office?

Because they can manage the males.

What is the difference between a very fascinating young lady and her watch?

The watch makes one remember the hours, and the young lady makes one forget them.

When is a maiden most chaste (chased)?

When she is most run after.

Why is a pretty young lady like a wagon-wheel?

Because she is surrounded by felloes (fellows).

Why is a very demure young lady like a tugboat?

Because she pays no attention to the swells that follow her.

What does a young lady become when she ceases to be pensive?
Ex-pensive.

Why are a couple of first-rate breech-loaders like two beautiful young ladies?
Because they're a pair-o'-guns (paragons).

Why is a young lady like a violin?
Because she is often touched by a bow (beau).

Why are young ladies like a church?
Because they have many a-spire to them, and generally have a loud clapper in the upper story.

Why should young ladies set good examples?
Because young men are so apt to follow them.

When is a young lady's cheek not a cheek?
When it is a little pale (pail).

Why is a vain young lady like a confirmed drunkard?
Because neither of them is satisfied with a moderate use of the glass.

When does a young lady lose her self-possession?
When she gives herself away.

Why do young ladies put their hair in papers?
To wake curly in the morning.

Why is a young lady like a hinge?
Because she is something to a door (adore).

Why is a fast young lady like a steam-boat?
Because she never goes ahead without drawing a swell after her.

What misses are of a very jealous temper?
Mis-give and mis-trust.

YOUNG MEN

Why do sheep resemble fast young men?
Because they gamble (gambol) in their youth, are always on the turf, are very frequently blacklegs and are universally fleeced.

THE END